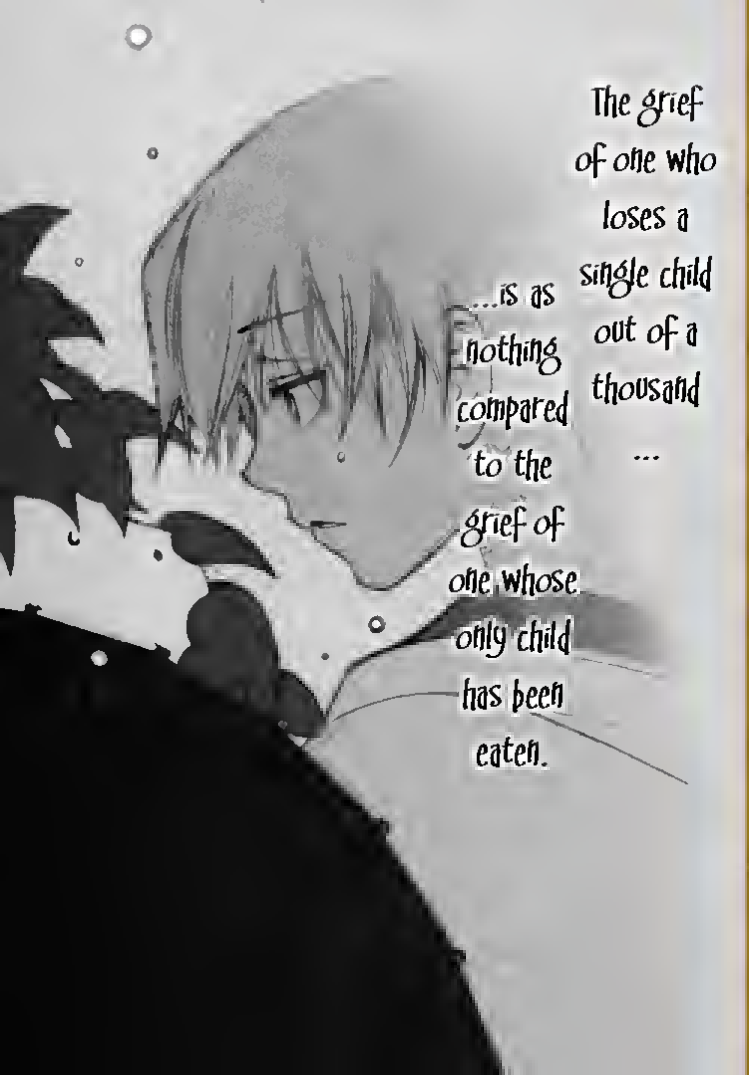
tactics

木下さくら
×
東山和子

12

木下さくら×東山和子
tactics 12


The grief of one who loses a single child out of a thousand ...
...is as nothing compared to the grief of one whose only child has been eaten.

tactics

Sakura Kinoshita × Kazuko Higashiyama

12

Satire of a Red-Eyed Pomegranate Fiend
Kishimojin
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Satire of a Red-Eyed Pomegranate Fiend
Kishimojin Part I

JUST A DREAM...
DAMN... WHAT THE HELL WAS...?
A DREAM?

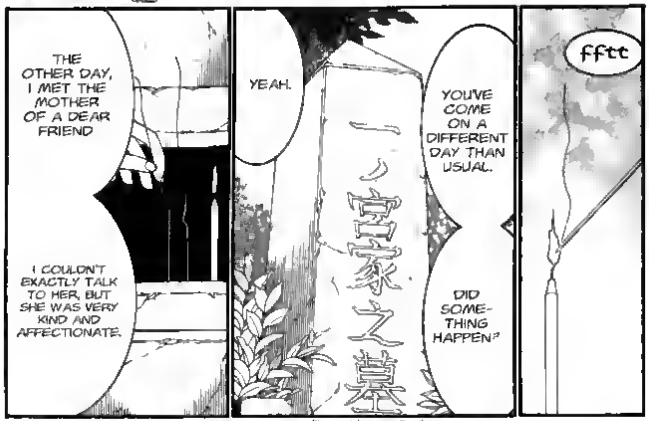
WHO ARE YOU...?
SKRNCH
SQUELCH

JOLT
!

HARUKA-CHAN, IT'S MORNING!!
RISE AND SHINE, SLEEPY-HEAD!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HARUKA-CHAN? IT TOOK YOU EVEN LONGER THAN USUAL TO GET UP!
YEAH...
I WAS HAVING THIS DREAM...
HM?
WHERE'S KANTA-ROU?
HE'S HARDLY EVER GONE THIS EARLY...
YEAH, Y'SEE...
TODAY HE--
HE SAID HE WOULD BE PAYING A VISIT TO A GRAVE.
LIKELY THE GRAVE OF HIS MOTHER, WHICH HE VISITS EVERY MONTH.
I WAS GONNA SAY THAT!!
STILL, IT IS ODD, AS HIS MONTHLY VISIT USUALLY TAKES PLACE ON A DIFFERENT DAY
HEY!!
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT?
HE NEVER TELLS PEOPLE THAT MUCH ABOUT HIMSELF
IT WAS IN HIS SORCERER REGIMENT CASE FILE
BUT IT'S TRUE THAT THIS MAY BE THE FIRST TIME HE'S GONE OUT OFF-SCHEDULE
OH!
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT KAN-CHAN RECENTLY MET YOUR MOTHER TREE, HARUKA-CHAN?
MAYBE THAT MADE HIM FEEL LIKE VISITING HIS OWN MOTHER'S GRAVE
THAT MAKES SENSE!

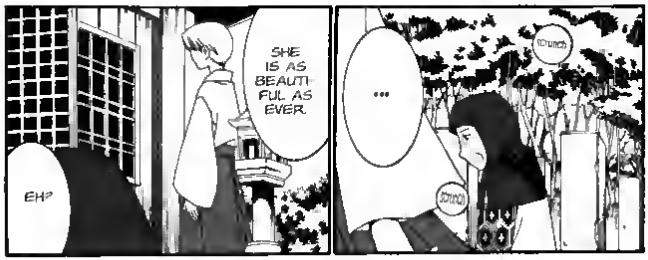
WHAT WAS HER PURPOSE IN HURTING HIM?

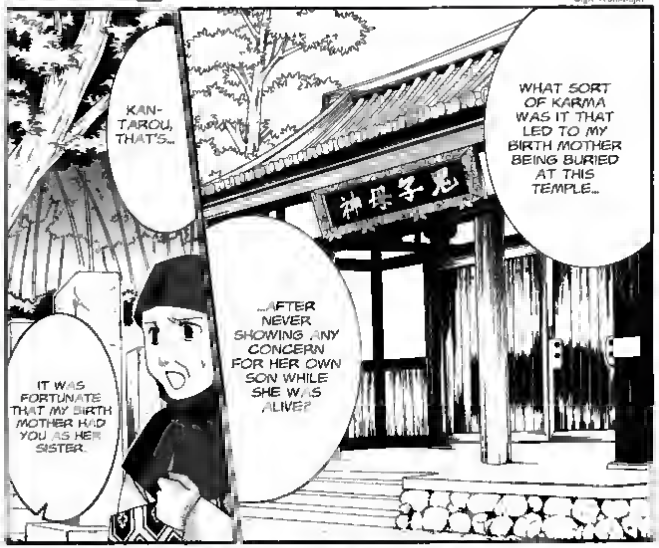
...
ME TOO!
AH, WHAT A LUCKY FELLOW! I WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOUR MUM AS WELL!
BRICK
OW!
YIKES!
I CUT MY HAND ON A THORN IN HER BARK!
JEEZ... LOOK AT ALL THIS BLOOD!
I'LL GIVE YOU FIRST-AID, MISTER KANTAROU. FIRST WE SMEAR WITH MEDICINAL HERBS...
THEN, WE WRAP IN A BANDAGE, AND NOW WE'RE DONE!
OH! THANKS!
MOTHER HAD NEVER HARMED ANYBODY BEFORE.


THE OTHER DAY, I MET THE MOTHER OF A DEAR FRIEND
I COULDN'T EXACTLY TALK TO HER, BUT SHE WAS VERY KIND AND AFFECTIONATE.
YEAH.
一ノ宮家之墓
YOU'VE COME ON A DIFFERENT DAY THAN USUAL.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
ffft

Stone Ichinomya Family

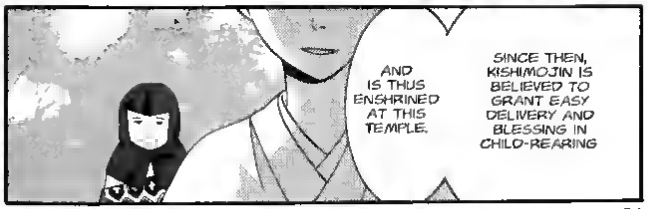
...I JUST COULDN'T WAIT TO COME AND EXPRESS MY RESENTMENT
AND SO, THINKING ABOUT HOW MY OWN MOTHER WAS RELATIVELY LACKING IN AFFECTION...




KAN-TAROU, THAT'S...
WHAT SORT OF KARMA WAS IT THAT LED TO MY BIRTH MOTHER BEING BURIED AT THIS TEMPLE..
...AFTER NEVER SHOWING ANY CONCERN FOR HER OWN SON WHILE SHE W..S ALIVE?
IT WAS FORTUNATE THAT MY BIRTH MOTHER HAD YOU AS HER SISTER.

...A WOMAN LIKE HER TO SLEEP AT KISHI-MOJIN'S KNEE..
IF YOU WEREN'T AT THIS TEMPLE, THEY WOULD HAVE NEVER ALLOWED..

KISHI-MOJIN
SHE WAS ORIGINALLY THE WIFE OF A DEMON, AND MOTHER OF A THOUSAND CHILDREN, BUT SHE ALSO SNATCHED AWAY AND DEVOURED HUMAN CHILDREN
BUDDHA HID HER MOST BELOVED YOUNGEST CHILD TO MAKE HER REALIZE THE SORROW AND TERROR OF PARENTS LOSING THEIR CHILDREN, AND THUS CONVERTED HER TO BUDDHISM.


AND IS THUS ENSHRINED AT THIS TEMPLE.
SINCE THEN, KISHIMOJIN IS BELIEVED TO GRANT EASY DELIVERY AND BLESSING IN CHILD-REARING

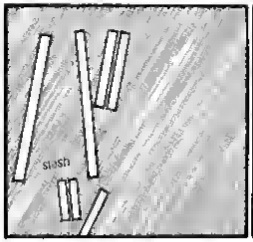
I WAS COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY ALONE
I LOOKED DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PEOPLE, AND DUE TO THE SPIRITUAL POWER I INHERITED FROM HER, I SAW DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHER PEOPLE
I HAD NO FRIENDS, AND WHEN I WENT HOME, I HAD NO MOTHER...

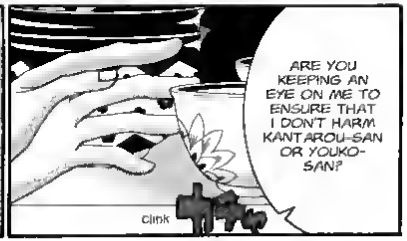
I CAN STILL EXACTLY PICTURE THE LOOK SHE HAD ON HER FACE AS SHE DIED...
BECAUSE I...
KAN-TAROU...!
EVEN IN THE MOMENT WHEN I WATCHED HER DIE

A SHIRA-BYOSHI DANCER...
...AND A WOMAN OF PLEASURE

I HARBORED A DEEP LOATHING FOR HER... BUT THEN, WHO WOULDN'T?
HAVING A WHORE FOR A MOTHER AND ALL.
YOUR MOTHER WAS A VERY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN
SHE COULD CERTAINLY TWIST MEN AROUND HER LITTLE FINGER, I'LL GIVE HER THAT MUCH.

HOW VERY UNUSUAL FOR YOU
AREN'T YOU HERE BECAUSE YOU WANT SOMETHING FROM ME?
OHO!
YOU SHOW NO ABIDING INTEREST IN OTHER PEOPLE'S ACTIONS, TO SAY NOTHING OF YOUR OWN...
...YET YOU CONCERN YOURSELF WITH MY MOVEMENTS?

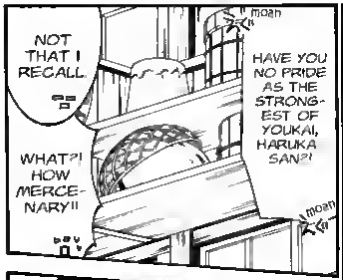

slash


ARE YOU KEEPING AN EYE ON ME TO ENSURE THAT I DON'T HARM KANTAROU-SAN OR YOUKO-SAN?
clink

Yaoi-kun!

YOU'RE NOT JAPANESE AND I'M A YOUKAI
TWO GROWN MEN STUCK IN A KITCHEN WASHING DISHES... WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE GALLANT MEN OF JAPAN?
Youko's at work!

OUCH!
I AM A FACH FIST, YOU KNOW!
HEY, GET BACK TO WORK, YOU FREE-LOADER!
knee


moan
NOT THAT I RECALL
HAVE YOU NO PRIDE AS THE STRONGEST OF YOUKAI, HARUKA SAN?!
WHAT?! HOW MERCENARY!!
moan

HEY, IS THAT STUFF REALLY TRUE, ABOUT YOU HAVING NO MONEY AND NOT BEING ABLE TO GO BACK TO THAT MINAMOTO BRAT'S HOME?

Whinge!
IN THIS HOUSE YOU'RE JUST A NEET!
I AM A LEADER OF AN IMPORTANT SECRET SOCIETY IN ENGLAND!!
Shaddup!

...thunk
ALTHOUGH RIGHT AT THE MOMENT I WOULD PREFER NOT TO FIGHT YOU EITHER KANTAROU SAN CAN ALWAYS STOP YOU FROM QUARRELING WITH ME YOU SEE.
THEN YOUR TARGET IS...
I PREFER TO FIGHT THOSE WHO ARE STRONG
REST ASSURED I WILL NOT LAY A HAND ON THOSE TWO
WELL...
WAS THAT THE CAUSE OF YOUR OVER-SLEEPING?
...YOU WERE MOANING QUITE A BIT THIS MORNING.
INCIDENT ALLY, HARUKA SAN...

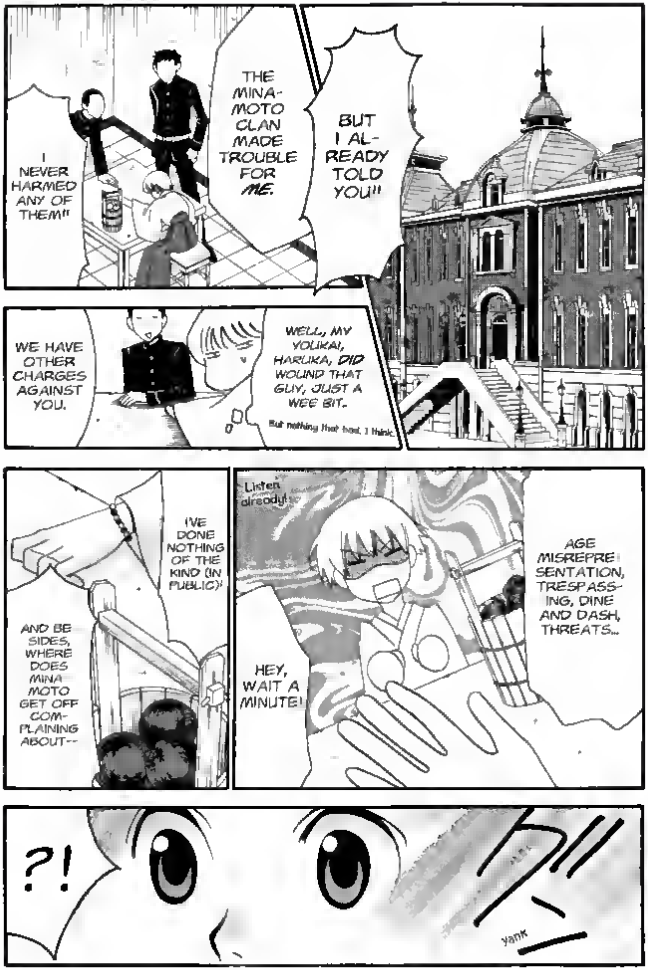
MAY I ASK YOU MORE ABOUT IT?
I HAVE HEARD THAT DISCUSSING A BAD DREAM WITH SOMEONE ELSE CAN ALLEVIATE ITS IMPACT
ALL RIGHT.
...
RIGHT... THAT WAS A DREAM...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO DISCUSS IT WITH ME! HOW VERY RUDE!
HUH?! WAIT, HARUKA SAN!!
TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

THEY'RE KINDA PEBBLY IN TEXTURE..
I DON'T LIKE THE TASTE MUCH EITHER.
ICK..
HMM. POMEGRANATES..
..HEAVY.
SURE, SHE GROWS POMEGRANATES BECAUSE KISHIMOJIN HOLDS ONE, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS

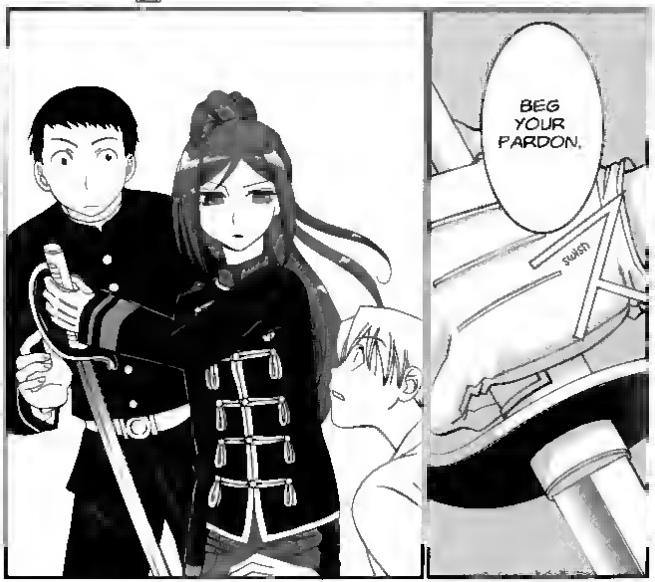
A MEMORY FROM MY PAST.

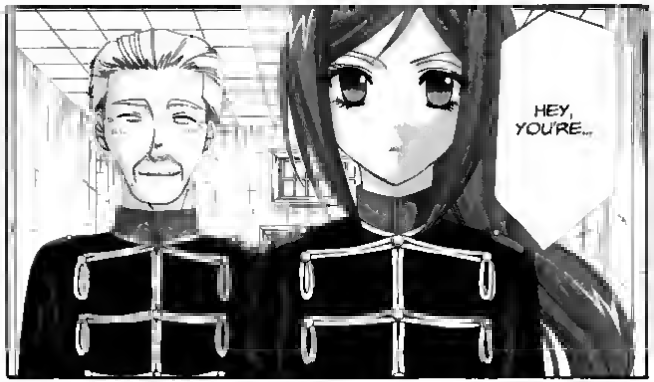
BUT IT'S ALSO A MEMORY.

I HAVEN'T HAD..
CANCELING FUJI'S NAME-CONTRACT HAS DEFINITELY CHANGED MATTERS.
A DREAM LIKE THAT SINCE KANTAROU UNSEALED ME.


I NEVER HARMED ANY OF THEM!!
THE MINAMOTO CLAN MADE TROUBLE FOR ME.
BUT I ALREADY TOLD YOU!!
WE HAVE OTHER CHARGES AGAINST YOU.
WELL, MY YOUKAI, HARUKA, DID WOUND THAT GUY, JUST A WEE BIT.
But nothing that bad, I think.
I'VE DONE NOTHING OF THE KIND (IN PUBLIC)!
AND BESIDES, WHERE DOES MINAMOTO GET OFF COMPLAINING ABOUT--
Listen already!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
AGE MISREPRESENTATION, TRESPASSING, DINE AND DASH, THREATS...
?!
Yank

SKEE
IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY, SAVE IT FOR THE STATION.
WHAA?!
Huh?
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.


BEG YOUR PARDON.
pwish

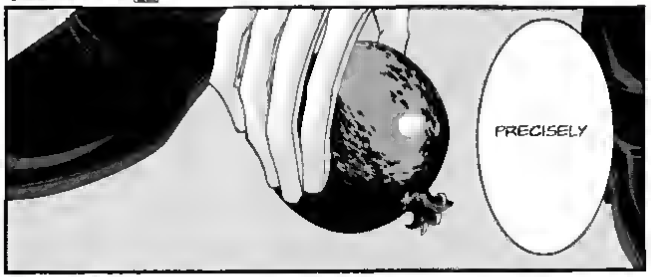

HEY, YOU'RE...

OW...!
DON'T YOU MEAN "LORD" MINAMOTO?
A PERSON OF YOUR SOCIAL STATURE HAS NO RIGHT TO USE HIS NAME SO CASUALLY!
whamm!

ALL WE WANT IS FOR YOU TO CONFESS.
...GHK!
WE DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE OR HAVEN'T DONE

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE THE OTHER DAY, MASTER ICHINOMIYA.
smile
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR WORK.
WE WILL BE HANDLING THIS INQUIRY FROM NOW ON, AS ARRANGED.
THEY SHOULD PREPARE TO MOBILIZE, NATIONWIDE.
AS FOR THE OFFICERS CURRENTLY ON STANDBY...

ARE YOU HERE TO BREAK ME...?


PRECISELY

FROM NOW ON, YOUR ADVERSARY IS NO LONGER...
...THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT YOUKAI EXTERMINATOR...

YOU SHOULD PREPARE YOURSELF, MISTER ICHINOMIYA.

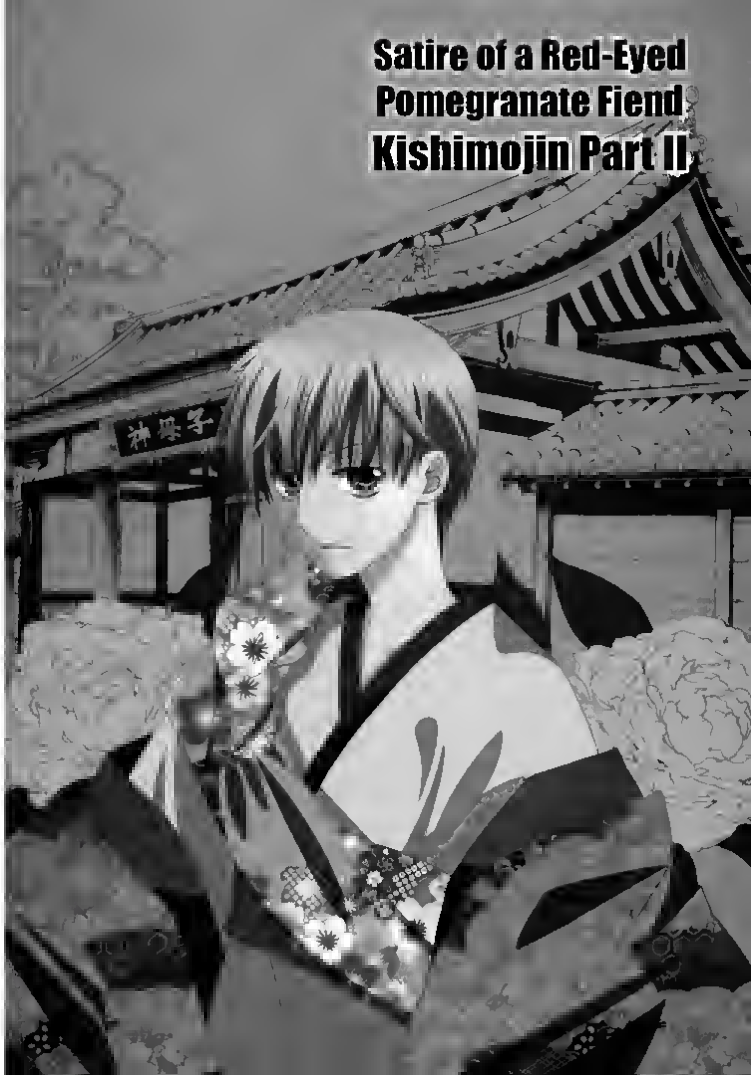
...OF THE DEMON-EATING TENGU.
FOR I WILL BE SURE TO TAKE THE BEAD...

...BUT THE GENERAL OF THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY SORCERER REGIMENT...
ATSUNORI KONOE, IF YOU PLEASE.

tactics

A crow eating a pomegranate. it tastes like human flesh, they say, and stains the beak a deep red.

Satire of a Red-Eyed Pomegranate Fiend
Kishimojin Part II



flap
flap
WHY DO I FEEL SO UNEASY?
EATING A DEMON WOULD ONLY PROVE THAT I'VE FINALLY RETURNED
THAT I'M BACK TO MY NATURAL STATE.

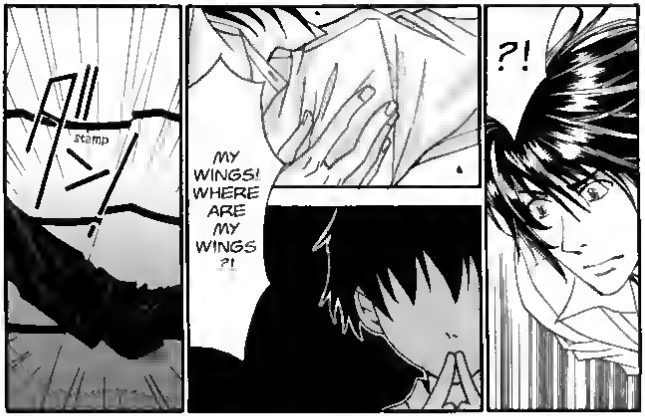
I FEEL I DESERVE SOME MEASURE OF THANKS FROM Y--
HARUKA-SAN!!
I WILL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I FINISHED ALL OF THE CLEANING BY MYSELF
AUGH!!!
shhnk

Gaah, what a pest! Better put my wings away.
...HM?
whinge whinge
OW!
yank
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
YOU JUST WANT TO LEAVE EVEN MORE WORK FOR ME!
NO--!!
AS IF!
OH, NOWHERE REALLY... JUST STROLLING IN THE SKY FOR A CHANGE OF P--

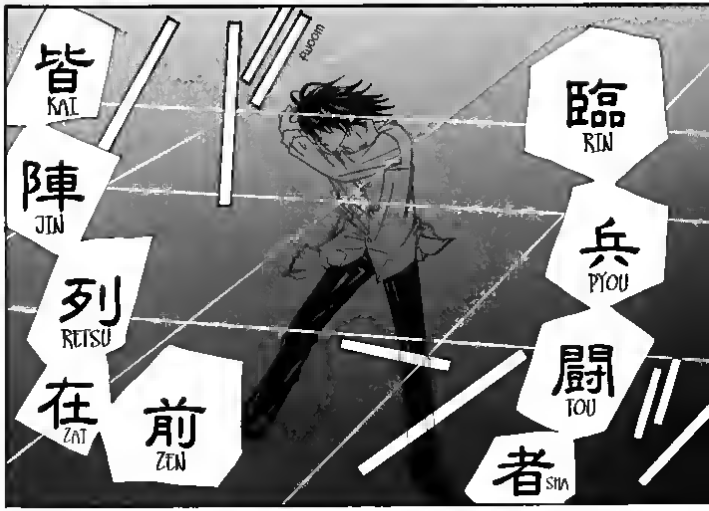
HEY, WHO'S THAT KID?

THIS IS MISTER ICHINOMIYA'S HOUSE, YOU KNOW!
mutter mutter
TRESPASSING ISN'T A NICE THING TO_
HANG ON A SEC.
PERHAPS A NEIGHBORHOOD CHILD WHO LOST HIS WAY?
WHAT JUST...
crack crack
HEEEY! LITTLE BOY!

wobble
UH?
snap
HUUHH?!!
tumble


stomp
MY WINGS! WHERE ARE MY WINGS?!
?!

Slash
Clonk
カーン!
OOF!


皆
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ZAI
前
ZEN
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RIN
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PYOU
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TOU
者
SHA
Fuoom

WHO THE HELL...

...ARE YOU?

HON-ESTLY.
YOU HAVE FAR TOO MUCH TIME ON YOUR HANDS
DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH YOU. THIS IS WORK!
WORK?
...DEMON-EATING TENGU.
YOU'LL LEARN PLENTY ABOUT THAT, SINCE YOU'RE COMING WITH US LIKE IT OR NOT...

OHO, IF IT ISN'T SAKATA-SAN OVER THERE!
I KNEW I HEARD A CERTAIN SHRILL VOICE
AND HERE I THOUGHT I WAS READY TO ROLL WITH ANY PUNCHES.
URRGH.
Ouuuu...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU UP TO?!
I THOUGHT I HADN'T SEEN YOU AROUND LATELY, BUT WHY ARE YOU HERE OF ALL PLACES?!!

COME WITH US FOR THE TIME BEING, MASTER EDWARDS.
Oh kerakyara harahara
PLEASE, SAKATA-SAN, THINK OF IT AS TAKING A LITTLE BREAK!
YOU'RE AN HONORED GUEST! I'D PREFER THAT YOU NOT GO WANDERING OFF LIKE THIS!!
...

ICHINO MIYA'S BEEN AR RESTED HE DOES HAVE A CRIMINAL RECORD, FORTU-NATELY FOR US
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
COME ALONG QUIETLY, AND YOU'LL EVEN GET TO SEE YOUR MASTER THERE TOO
RIGHT NOW, IT'S MY DUTY TO CATCH YOU AND BRING YOU TO THE ARMY.

YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT, DEMON EATING TENGU
BECAUSE OF YOU AND ICHINOMIYA, MASTER RAIKOU IS UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN OFFICIAL BUSINESS...
...AND I'M LEFT HAVING TO BABY-SIT THIS KID.
...
!
peeved
HE'S BOUND UP NOW, SO WHY NOT?
MISTER SAKATA, IT MIGHT BE RASH TO TELL HIM ABOUT TH

swish
Om bazarado shakoku.
snap

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
STOP HIM AT ONCE!
shwip

GWAAH
Ka-shing
Ka-shing
SKUFF
WHY YOU--!
?!

!
fwoosh

grab
SUCH POWER AT YOUR AGE...
ARE YOU OF THE MINAMOTO CLAN?
Cling

AND WHAT IF I AM?
Pump
...
YOU... YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY WITH THIS!
EVEN IF I HAVE TO SHOOT YOU FIRST
Hii☆
Creep
You
Creep
You
So close
HUNK-

FOUR
Snerk
WHY YOU---!!
FOUR-EYES.
THAT WAS SOME VERY USEFUL INFORMA-TION...

I DO NOT HAVE FOUR EYES!!
SNAP
パキン
I'VE NEVER HAD A YOUKAI USE A KUJI ON ME BEFORE.

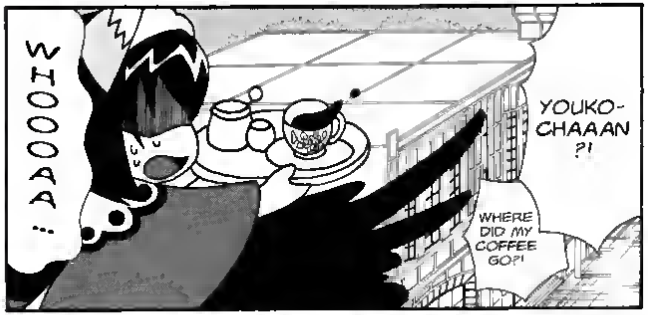
WHAAA ?!
I WOULD PREFER THAT YOU NOT DO THAT.

NO! STOP!!
They'll have my head for that!
Ow ow ow Ow ow ow
ONE STEP CLOSER AND THIS VERY VERY IM-PORTANT GUEST OF HONOR GETS IT
STAY BACK
WHAT ARE--

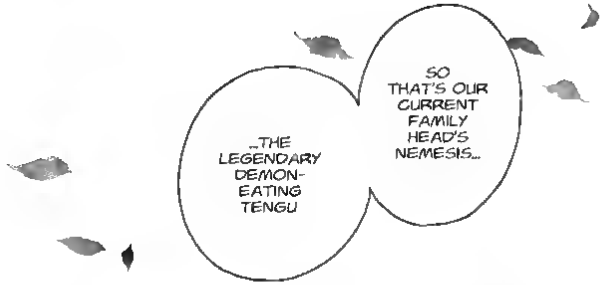
FAP
MUCH APPRECI-ATED
GEH ...!
RETSU ZAI ZEN
列在前ノ
RIN PYOU TOU SHA KAI JIN
臨兵闘者皆陣
Boom
ハーン!

GOODNESS ME BUT THAT WAS A STARTLING GUST. HOW ARE YOU, YOUKO-CHA
gone
HM?!

whoosh
EEEEK!


AIIOOOCE!
YOUKO-CHAAAN?!
WHERE DID MY COFFEE GO?!

IT SEEMS KANTAROU HAS BEEN "ARRESTED"
HARUKA-CHAN, WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?!
HUH?!
How can you be so sure?


SO THAT'S OUR CURRENT FAMILY HEAD'S NEMESIS...
...THE LEGENDARY DEMON-EATING TENGU

WEL-COME! ♡

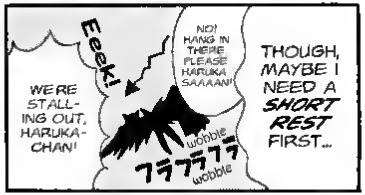
Slam
OF COURSE! ♡ I'M WORKING HARD TO EARN A LIVING!
YOU'RE SHOWING A LOT OF SPIRIT TODAY, YOUKO-CHAN!

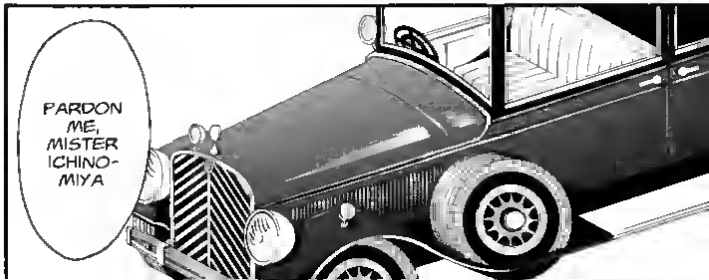
WON'T YOU HAVE SOME POMEGRANATE?

Take it with you?
HUH?
BY THE WAY, MISTER ICHINOMIYA DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR ME?
I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE THIS WITH ME FOR NOW
REALLY? I'M NOT SURE THAT I CAN FINISH A WHOLE ONE BY MYSELF.
NAH, I'LL PASS

I HEARD THAT HE HASN'T LEFT HIS ROOM
FRANKLY, NO.
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT HIM?
OKAY, THEN.
I AM RATHER UNCOMFORTABLE WITH SILENCES.
WHAT'S HAPPENED WITH RAIKOU MINAMOTO?

ONCE WE FIND SOME PLACE TO HIDE OUT...
...I'M GOING TO RESCUE KANTAROU
MINAMOTO'S UNDERLINGS CAME BY TO CAPTURE ME TOO
WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO THE HOUSE FOR A WHILE
OH NO!
What about our precious few valuables?!


Eeek!
WE'RE STALLING OUT, HARUKA-CHAN!
NO! HANG IN THERE PLEASE HARUKA SAAAAN!
wobble wobble
フラフラフ
THOUGH, MAYBE I NEED A SHORT REST FIRST...


PARDON ME, MISTER ICHINOMIYA

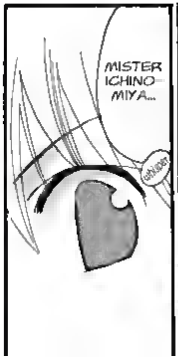
BUT WHY...?
THERE ARE RUMORS THAT HE RATHER RESENTS THE INJURY DONE TO WATANABE, HIS MOST TRUSTED ASSOCIATE.
I ADVISE YOU TO BE EVEN MORE CAUTIOUS THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE MAJOR GENERAL MINAMOTO.

PLEASE DO BE CAREFUL.
...
IF YOU'RE UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO BUMP INTO HIM, HE MAY KILL BOTH YOU AND THE DEMON-EATING TENGU
AH, WE'VE ARRIVED
SQUEAK

...DUE TO POOR HEALTH OR SOME SUCH
HE IS TAKING A LONG REST...

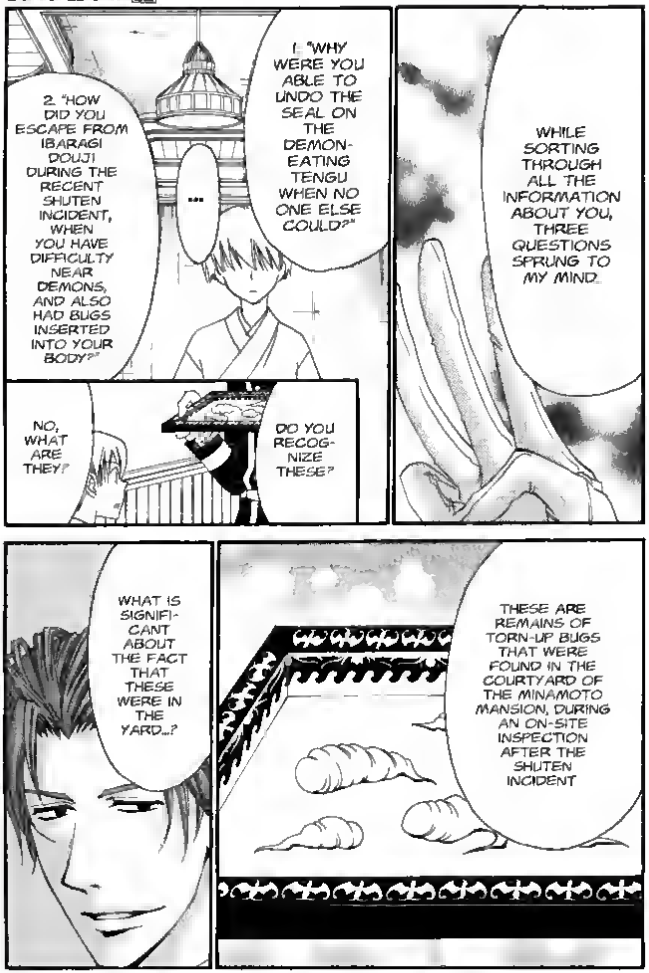
I HAVE NOT SEEN HIM EITHER, FOR THAT REASON, SO I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HIS CURRENT THOUGHTS OR ACTIONS
WELL, ACTUALLY I'VE NEVER KNOWN WHAT HE WAS THINKING; HE ALWAYS WAS A CAPRICIOUS CHILD.

BUT I CAN'T PICTURE THAT MAN ABANDONING THINGS SO EASILY.

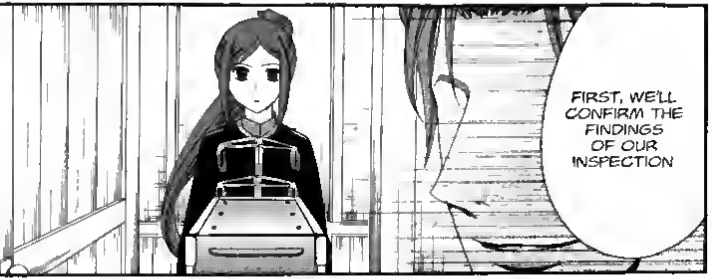

MISTER ICHINOMIYA...
SHUDDER

OH, THAT'S TRUE
MY APOLOGIES.

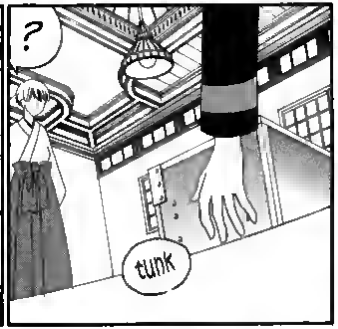
ALTHOUGH YOU MAY BE MASTER RAIKOU'S SUPERIOR OFFICER IN RANK, YOU OUGHT NOT CARRY IT TOO FAR.
GENERAL KONOE, COULD YOU PLEASE REFRAIN FROM RIDICULING OUR MASTER IN OUR PRESENCE?


1. "WHY WERE YOU ABLE TO UNDO THE SEAL ON THE DEMON-EATING TENGU WHEN NO ONE ELSE COULD?"
2. "HOW DID YOU ESCAPE FROM IBARAGI DOUJI DURING THE RECENT SHUTEN INCIDENT, WHEN YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY NEAR DEMONS, AND ALSO HAD BUGS INSERTED INTO YOUR BODY?"
...
WHILE SORTING THROUGH ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU, THREE QUESTIONS SPRUNG TO MY MIND.
DO YOU RECOG-NIZE THESE?
NO, WHAT ARE THEY?
THESE ARE REMAINS OF TORN-UP BUGS THAT WERE FOUND IN THE COURTYARD OF THE MINAMOTO MANSION, DURING AN ON-SITE INSPECTION AFTER THE SHUTEN INCIDENT
WHAT IS SIGNIFI-CANT ABOUT THE FACT THAT THESE WERE IN THE YARD...?

WHERE ARE WE?
THIS WAS FORMERLY THE SITE OF THE COURT-HOUSE.
AND SINCE THE BUILDING STILL RE-MAINS...
NOTE THAT THIS TRIAL WILL NOT INVOLVE LAWYERS.
...YOUR TRIAL TAKES PLACE HERE STARTING NOW MISTER ICHINO MIYA
!

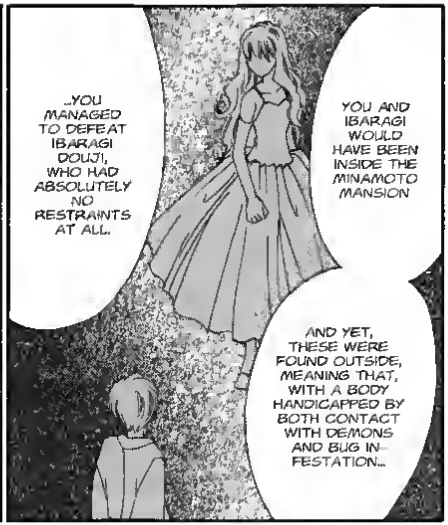

FIRST, WE'LL CONFIRM THE FINDINGS OF OUR INSPECTION

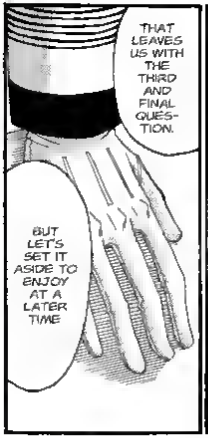
slide
PAIN ?!
zing


?
tunk

ズキ
zing
THESE ARE...
NO WAY...
ズキ
zing
ズキ
zing

I CANNOT IMAGINE THAT YOU WOULD HAVE HAD EVEN A THOUSAND-TO-ONE CHANCE OF WINNING
...I TOLD HER I HAD TO USE THE BATHROOM, THEN I RAN AWAY I DIDN'T FIGHT WITH HER.

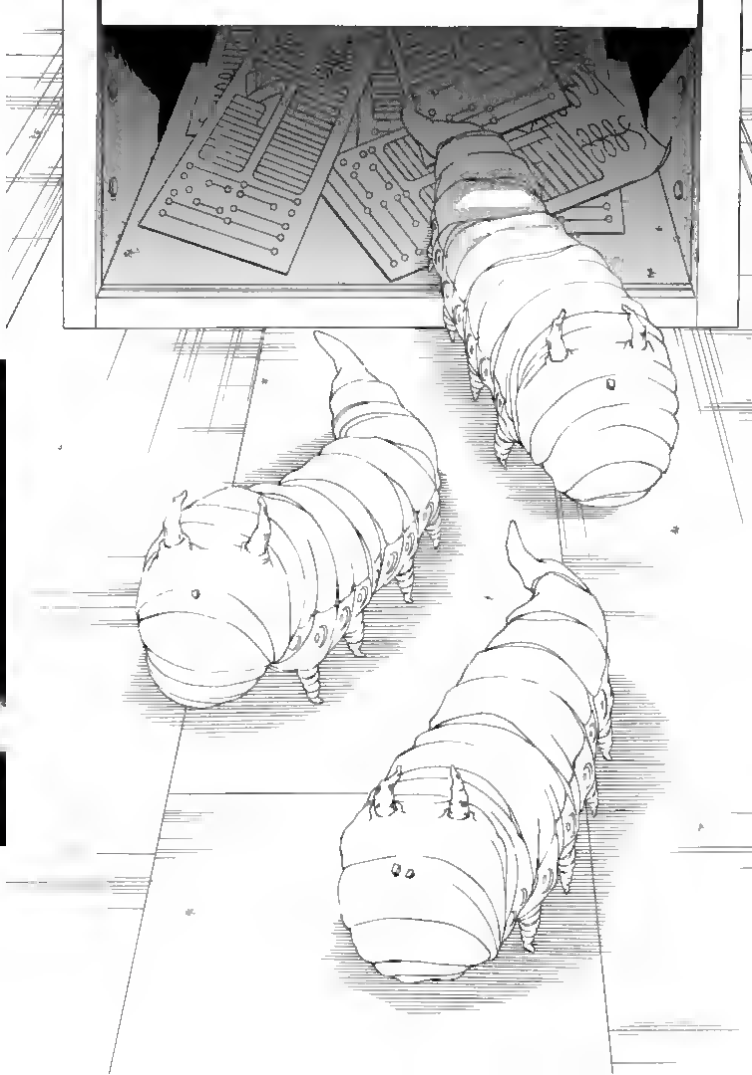

...YOU MANAGED TO DEFEAT IBARAGI DOUJI, WHO HAD ABSOLUTELY NO RESTRAINTS AT ALL.
YOU AND IBARAGI WOULD HAVE BEEN INSIDE THE MINAMOTO MANSION
AND YET, THESE WERE FOUND OUTSIDE, MEANING THAT, WITH A BODY HANDICAPPED BY BOTH CONTACT WITH DEMONS AND BUG INFESTATION...


THAT LEAVES US WITH THE THIRD AND FINAL QUESTION.
BUT LET'S SET IT ASIDE TO ENJOY AT A LATER TIME

WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED TO IBARAGI AND THOSE CREATURES INSIDE YOU?
I'M...
...

OH REALLY?
AND YET WATANABE HAS TESTIFIED THAT IBARAGI ACTED VERY MUCH AFRAID OF YOU WHILE IN THE TREASURE HOUSE.

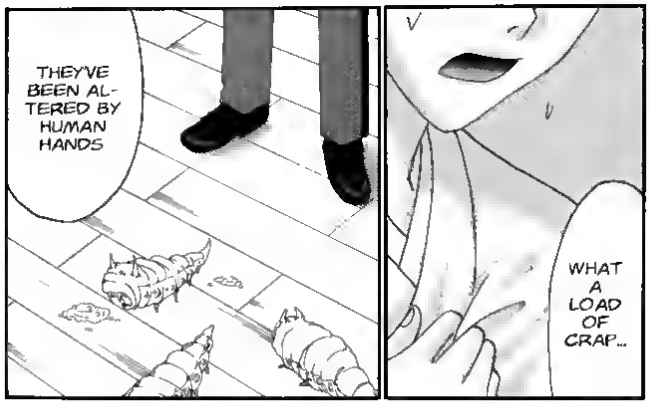
B-BUGS..
KODOKU BUGS..
BUT THEY AREN'T DEMONS, SO WHY'S MY SCAR--?
THOSE ARE NOT MERE BUGS
WE TOOK TINY FRAGMENTS OF WHAT REMAINED OF SHUTEN DOUJI'S HEAD..
...AND EMBEDDED THEM IN THESE BUGS.
YOU... WHAT?!
..TO BE A NEW VARIETY OF DEMON.
YOU COULD SAY THESE BUGS WERE DEVELOPED BY OUR SORCERER REGIMENT..



THESE ARE NOT YOUKAI.
THEY'RE JUST WRETCHED BEINGS..!

NOW..
SHOW ME WHAT YOU DID THAT NIGHT...
...TO IBARAGI AND THOSE BUGS
HEH HEH... FITTING WORDS FOR THE GREAT FOLKLORIST IN FAVOR OF AFFIRMING YOUKAI.
BUT CURRENTLY YOU ARE NOT HERE IN YOUR SCHOLARLY CAPACITY

THEIR SPEED AND STRENGTH ARE DOZENS OF TIMES GREATER THAN ORDINARY BUGS.
THEY ARE INCOMPARABLY MIGHTIER IN ABILITY THAN OUR PREVIOUS ONES.
gloop
THEY ARE TRUE YOUKAI MASTER-PIECES

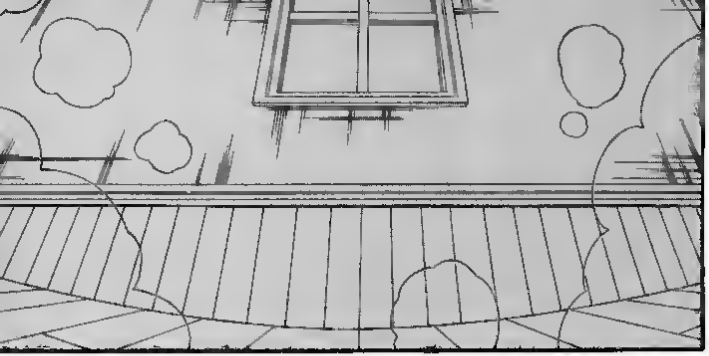

THEY'VE BEEN AL-TERED BY HUMAN HANDS
WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP...

THE CHOICE IS YOURS. WILL YOU KILL THE DEMON BUGS? OR WILL YOU LET THEM KILL YOU?
THOSE ARE YOUR ONLY TWO OPTIONS.

Blossoms
fallen
whole
Camellia
linger on
In their
great
frailty.

pounce
Huff...
Aaah...
Haah...

Satire of a Red-Eyed
Pomegranate Fiend
Kishimojin Part III



GENERAL KONOE...?
HOLD YOUR POSITION
THERE HE IS!

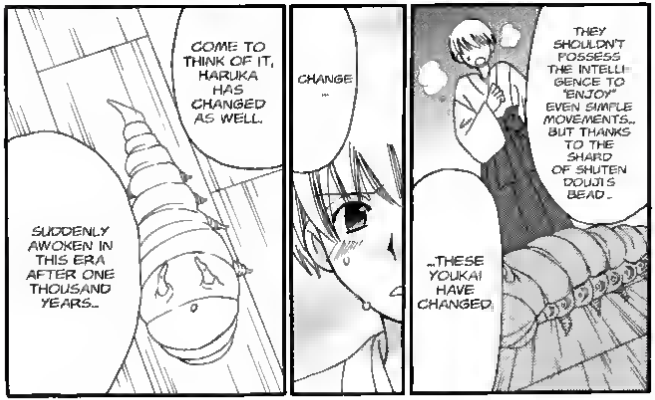
HAA...
Haah
Huff!

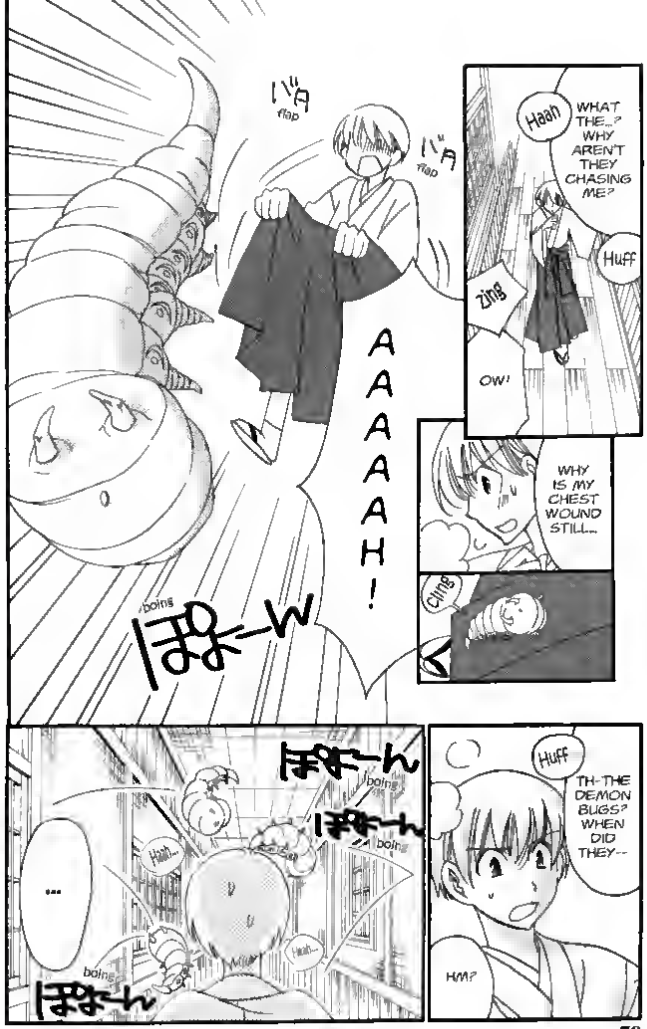
wssh
smudge

zzrt
bam
!

...
Bugs like these were originally tools for spells, created through a type of magic called "kodoku."
boing
ぽよーん
ぽよーん
boing
Haah...
COULD IT BE THAT YOU... ENJOY... BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS?
Hff...

The resulting "bug" is then inserted into the body of the intended victim, where it devours that person's internal organs
A kodoku "bug" is produced by having a large number of insects devour one another, and then applying a spell to the final survivor.


COME TO THINK OF IT, HARUKA HAS CHANGED AS WELL.
SUDDENLY AWOKEN IN THIS ERA AFTER ONE THOUSAND YEARS...
CHANGE...
THEY SHOULDN'T POSSESS THE INTELLIGENCE TO "ENJOY" EVEN SIMPLE MOVEMENTS... BUT THANKS TO THE SHARD OF SHUTEN DOUJI'S BEAD...
...THESE YOUKAI HAVE CHANGED.


flap
flap
AAAAAH!
boing
ぽよーん
Haah
WHAT THE...? WHY AREN'T THEY CHASING ME?
Huff
Zing
OW!
WHY IS MY CHEST WOUND STILL...
Cling
boing
ぽよーん
ぽよーん
boing
Haah...
Haah...
boing
ぽよーん
...
Huff
TH-THE DEMON BUGS? WHEN DID THEY--
HM?

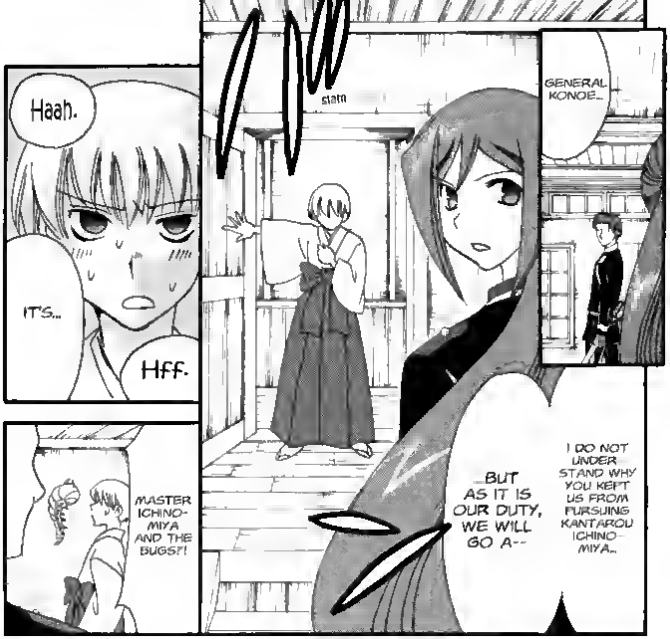
screee
screee
snatch
I CAN'T STAND IT.
IT MAKES ME SICK, HUMANS USING HARUKA AND YOU BUGS THIS WAY

SO, I'LL SAVE YOU

I'LL SAVE EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU.

Haa~
HE DID NOTHING BUT ARGUE WITH ME AFTER HE WAS FIRST UNSEALED. BUT RECENTLY HE CHOSE ME OVER LADY FUJI.
HUFF~
HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING IN THE BEGINNING, BUT SINCE THEN HE'S HAD ALL SORTS OF EXPERIENCES.
...
ALL THIS TIME, THOSE ARMY GUYS HAVE BEEN AFTER HARUKA'S YOUKAI BEAD
inch
inch
I'M SURE THAT, RIGHT ABOUT NOW, THEY MUST BE GOING FOR HARUKA TOO.
THE HARUKA OF TODAY HAS CHANGED FROM THE HARUKA OF LONG AGO.
..BAD FEELING ABOUT ALL THIS
I'VE GOT A REALLY ..

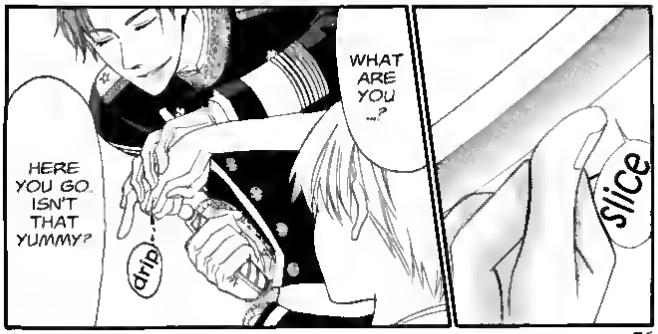
HGCK ..!
THESE DEFINITELY AREN'T ORDINARY BUGS. IF THEY CAN CHEW THROUGH A KUJI...
OW!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Heart Sutra...
jangle
I now recite the Profound Perfection of Wisdom...
CLEAR-LY...
I THOUGHT SO
CONSIDERING THE SORT OF PERSON YOU ARE MISTER ICHINOMI-YA I SUSPECTED YOU WOULD NOT ESCAPE WHILE LEAVING ANY YOUKAI BEHIND
skree
ARE YOU TRYING TO GIVE THE DEMON BUGS RELI-GION?
skree


Haah.
IT'S..
Hff.
stare
GENERAL KONOE...
I DO NOT UNDER-STAND WHY YOU KEPT US FROM PURSUING KANTAROU ICHINO-MIYA...
...BUT AS IT IS OUR DUTY, WE WILL GO A--
MASTER ICHINO-MIYA AND THE BUGS?!

crunch
AUGH! IT GOT THROUGH!
陣 JIN
列 RETSU
在 ZAI
前 ZEN
臨 RIN
兵 PYOU
闘 TOU
者 SHA
皆 KAI

squish
EITHER YOU KILL THE DEMON BUGS...
squish
...?!
I BELIEVE I TOLD YOU BEFORE
squelch
EAT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE..
squelch

WHAT ...?
YOU FAVOR NON-HUMAN CREATURES
splut


HERE YOU GO. ISN'T THAT YUMMY?
drip...
WHAT ARE YOU ...?
slice

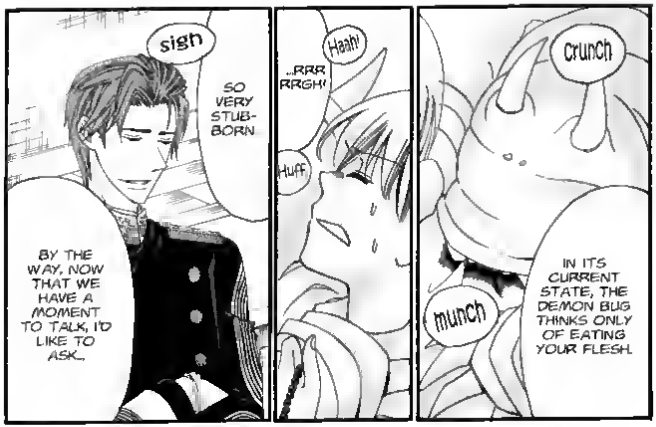
When Avalo--
--GCK!
Chomp
Jangle
The Profound Perfection of Wisdom Heart Sutra...
WHY NOT DO WHAT YOU DID TO IBARAGI DOUJI AND THE BUGS?
DO YOU REALLY NOT CARE IF YOU DIE?
I MADE UP MY MIND
Haah...
Haah
Haah
MIS TER ICHI NOMI YA..

AND JUST HOW WILL YOU MANAGE THAT IN YOUR CONDI-TION?
THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO...!
Haah
I'M GOING TO SAVE... AND PRO-TECT... THESE LITTLE GUYS

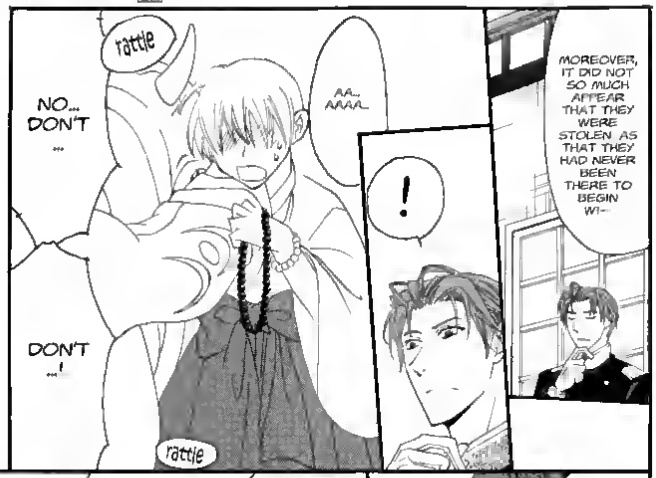
Badoom
OR ELSE THE DEMON BUGS WILL KILL YOU.
THEY COM-BINED ?!
OW...!

MIS TER ICHI NOMI YA..
Gah!
Brab

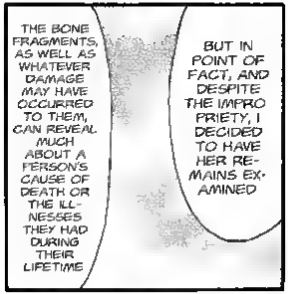
AS A YOUNG MAN, YOU ENTERED UNIVERSITY IN THE CAPITAL, AND AT THE SAME TIME BEGAN TO WORK AS A YOUKAI EXORCIST. AFTER GRADUATION YOU ALSO WORKED AS A FOLKLORIST
YOU LOST YOUR MOTHER AS A CHILD, AND WERE ADOPTED BY HER SISTER
YOUR INNATE SPIRITUAL POWER AND TALENT WERE DISCOVERED, AND YOU WENT TO A TEMPLE IN THE MOUNTAINS FOR ASCETIC TRAINING
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOK TERRIBLY PALE.
IT WAS REPORTED AS AN "ACCIDENTAL DEATH," BUT THERE ARE NO DETAILS OF ITS NATURE
Huff
WH-WHO GIVES A...
Haaht
I WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN YOUR RECORDS EASILY ENOUGH, BUT ON YOUR MOTHER...
Haah
...
Huff
...WE FOUND ALMOST NOTHING, ESPECIALLY REGARDING HER DEATH
I'M THE SORT WHO PURSUES QUESTIONS TO THE BITTER END SO I'D LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT...
...AND ASK YOU THIS ONE.


sigh
SO VERY STUBBORN
BY THE WAY, NOW THAT WE HAVE A MOMENT TO TALK, I'D LIKE TO ASK...
Haah!
...RRR RRGH!
Huff
Crunch
munch
IN ITS CURRENT STATE, THE DEMON BUG THINKS ONLY OF EATING YOUR FLESH.

YOUR MOTHER WAS A SHIRABYOSHI... AND THOUGH SHE WAS AN EXCELLENT PRIESTESS, SHE ALSO MADE HER LIVING AS A PROSTITUTE
I INVESTIGATED YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY, ALBEIT SOMEWHAT CURSORILY
YOUR FATHER IS UNKNOWN.
WHAT WAS YOUR MOTHER'S CAUSE OF DEATH?
twitch

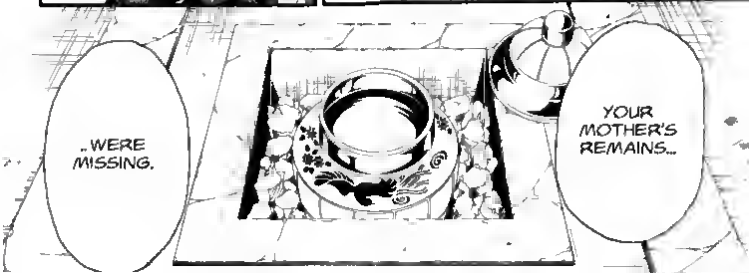

rattle
NO... DON'T ...
AA... AAAA...
!
MOREOVER, IT DID NOT SO MUCH APPEAR THAT THEY WERE STOLEN AS THAT THEY HAD NEVER BEEN THERE TO BEGIN WI-
DON'T ...!
rattle

IT MAY HAVE NO DIRECT CONNEC TION TO THE DEMON EATING TENGU OF COURSE
THAT IS THE THIRD RIDDLE PERTAIN-ING TO YOU.


THE BONE FRAGMENTS, AS WELL AS WHATEVER DAMAGE MAY HAVE OCCURRED TO THEM, CAN REVEAL MUCH ABOUT A PERSON'S CAUSE OF DEATH OR THE ILL-NESSES THEY HAD DURING THEIR LIFETIME
BUT IN POINT OF FACT, AND DESPITE THE IMPRO PRIETY, I DECIDED TO HAVE HER RE-MAINS EX-AMINED

HOW EVER WHEN WE LOOKED INSIDE HER GRAVE...

WHERE ARE YOUR MOTHER'S REMAINS?

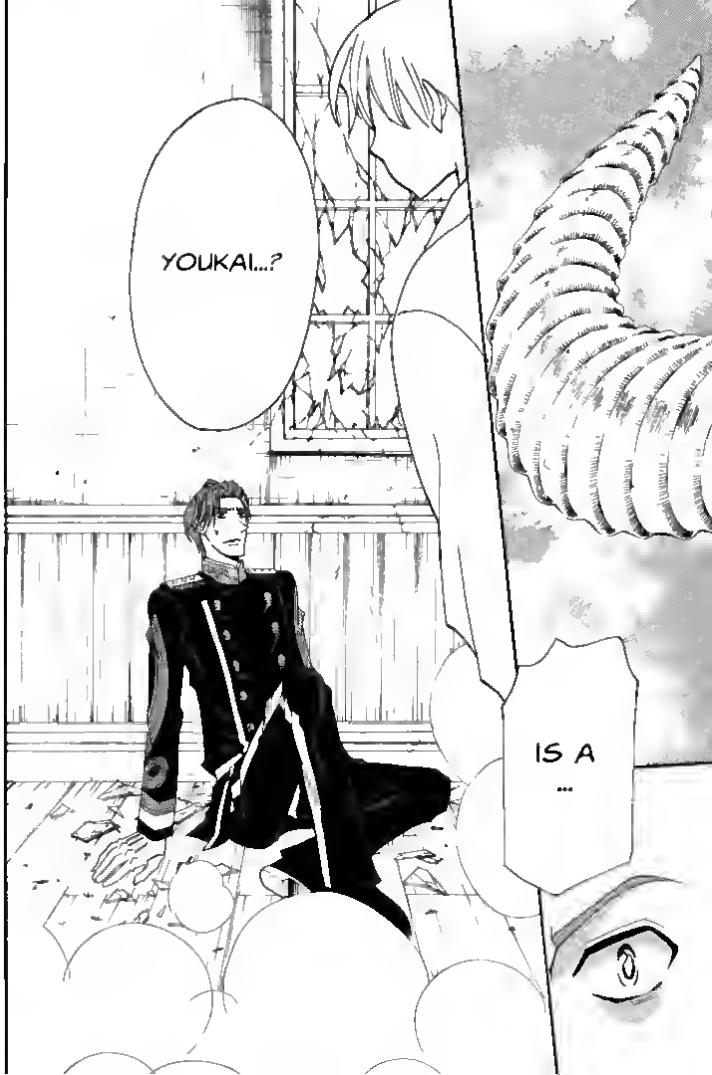

..WERE MISSING.
YOUR MOTHER'S REMAINS...

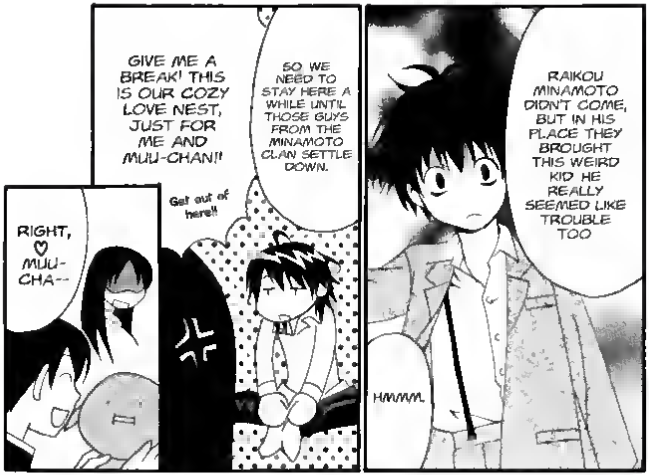
GAAAAH!
EARLIER, KANTA-ROU ICHI-NOMIYA NEVER BUDGED, NO MATTER WHAT...
..BUT NOW HE'S SHAKING SO VISI BLY
WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA AND HIS MOTH-

WHAT IN THE WORLD...?
...
MISTER... ICHINO-MIYA...

spang
?!
boom
Crunch
Crunch

shift
I AM...
...NOT A YOUKAI!
boom
GRR...


YOUKAI...?
IS A ...


GIVE ME A BREAK! THIS IS OUR COZY LOVE NEST, JUST FOR ME AND MUU-CHAN!!
SO WE NEED TO STAY HERE A WHILE UNTIL THOSE GUYS FROM THE MINAMOTO CLAN SETTLE DOWN.
RAIKOU MINAMOTO DIDN'T COME, BUT IN HIS PLACE THEY BROUGHT THIS WEIRD KID HE REALLY SEEMED LIKE TROUBLE TOO
RIGHT, ♡ MUU-CHA--
Get out of here!!
HMMM

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! OR RATHER, WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
snatch
AWW.. PEOPLE SHOULD BE FRIENDLY WHEN LIVING TOGETHER ♡ RIGHT?
WHY YOU..! GET YOUR MITTS OFF MY MUU-CHAN!

HARUKA-SAN..
WHY YOU!!! I HAVEN'T AGREED TO ANY-THING YET!!
SURE THING, HAVE A GOOD TRIP!
TAKE CARE OF THINGS HERE I'M OFF TO SAVE KAN-TAROU

WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING HERE?
GRABBH!!!
flap
flap

STOP CLEAN-ING!
DON'T JUST SETTLE INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE!
STOP POKING AROUND!

NOT ONLY THAT, SOME GUYS FROM THE SAME REGIMENT AS RAIKOU MINAMOTO CAME TO THE HOUSE TO MESS WITH ME
SOME-THING BIG! KAN-CHAN GOT AR-RESTED!
WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU GUYS?
REALLY?! WELL IT'S ABOUT TIME!
FOR YOU TO SHOW UP AT MY HOUSE ALL OF A SUDDEN... WHAT HAP-PENED?
"ABOUT TIME"?

A BARRIER ...?
!

...
LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO BREAK THIS BARRIER BEFORE I CAN GET THROUGH.
PAIN IN THE ASS.
flick
fwoosh

MUU!
MUU SAN, YOU ARE SIMPLY ADORABLE ♡ CARE TO TAKE A WALK?
Together...?
THERE'S NO SOY SAUCE OR MISO IN THIS HOUSE! GO BUY SOME, SUGINO SAMA!!
DEMON EATER! WE'RE NOT DONE TALKING!

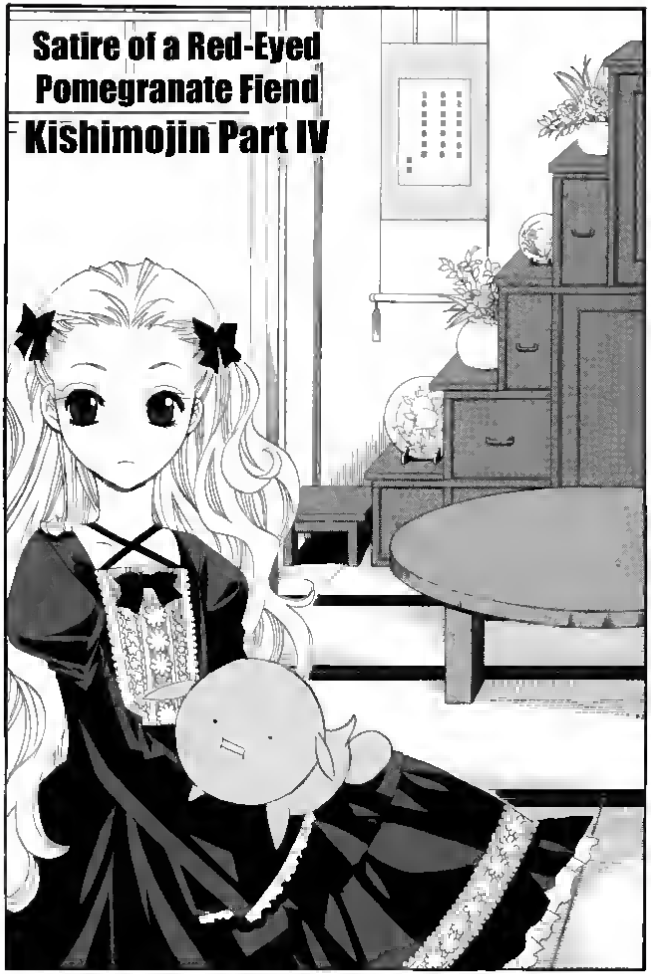
...
YOU MIGHT FIND SOME CLUES IF YOU TRY GOING THERE
KAN-TAROU-SAN MAY BE AT TOKYO POLICE HEAD-QUAR-TERS.

...
THE CAPITAL'S IN SIGHT.

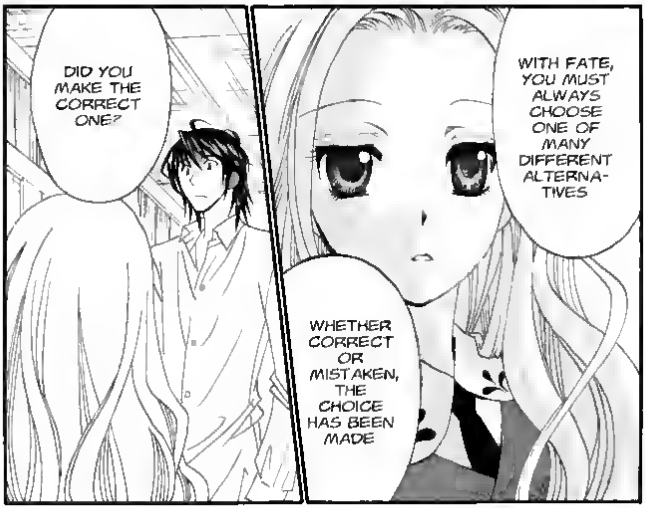
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THIS WAY
HEY!
ISN'T THAT THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM THE CAPITAL?
grasp
IN THERE.
Crunch
THAT KID REALLY IS TROUBLE.
DID THEY PUT UP A BARRIER ALL AROUND THE CAPITAL IN THE SHORT TIME WE WERE AT SUGINO'S?
THERE WASN'T ANYTHING LIKE THIS HERE WHEN WE WERE RUNNING AWAY FROM THOSE GUYS.
HUH. THE BARRIER DOESN'T EXTEND TO GROUND LEVEL?
OH.
IT SUCKS TO TAKE SQUINTY'S ADVICE, BUT...
...I MIGHT TRY GOING TO THE POLICE HEAD QUARTERS

KANTAROU
IS IN THERE.

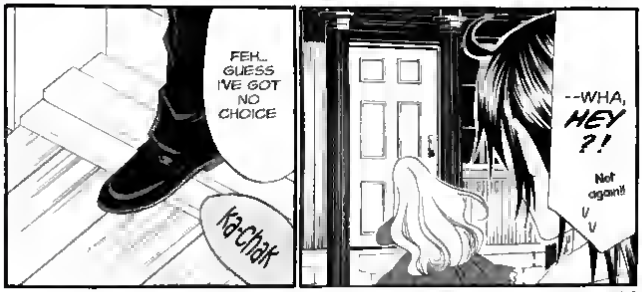
...WHAT?


Satire of a Red-Eyed
Pomegranate Fiend
Kishimojin Part IV

A HOUSE ---?
DOESN'T REALLY SEEM LIKE ONE.
!

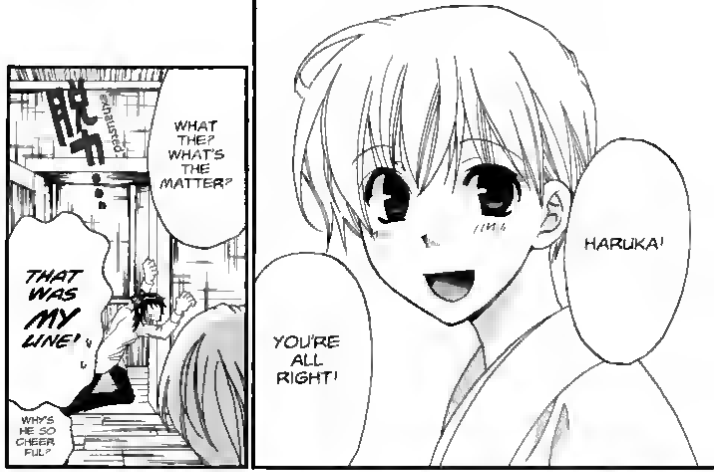

DID YOU MAKE THE CORRECT ONE?
WITH FATE, YOU MUST ALWAYS CHOOSE ONE OF MANY DIFFERENT ALTERNATIVES
WHETHER CORRECT OR MISTAKEN, THE CHOICE HAS BEEN MADE

HUH?! THEN HOW DO YOU KNOW KANTA-ROU'S IN--
DON'T KNOW.
WHAT BUILD-ING IS THIS?


FEH.. GUESS I'VE GOT NO CHOICE
Ka-Chak
--WHA, HEY ?!
Not again!!

...I DON'T KNOW.
KANTAROU SUMMONED ME HERE.
HE IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR
Ka-Chak
BUT WHATEVER I CHOOSE TO DO...
...I'M STILL ME.

clang
ALL RIGHT THEN, LET'S GO HOME
HM? WHERE'D THE GIRL GO?
HUH?
MAYBE SHE LEFT AL-READY?
NO...
YOU, HUH?
rummage
tump
YOU'RE FAR TOO GOOD AT SHAPE-SHIFTING


WHAT THE? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THAT WAS MY LINE!
WHY'S HE SO CHEERFUL?
HARUKA!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

NO... IT'S NOTHING.
WHAT? IS SOME-THING WRONG?
SORRY ABOUT THE FUSS, BUT I ALREADY ESCAPED HERE ON MY OWN!
...OH.
?

WHA?

slurgh

YOU'RE REALLY QUITE THE KID, YOU KNOW
buoosh
?!
fwish

shudder
shudder
The demon chief brought forth a multitude of his retainers.
Haah...
Huff...
...to face them in battle...
HEY...

When Momotaro and his companions invaded the castle....
?

The youkai — Onra!
clap
Now, return to life in this era...

THE DEMON YOU SEE HERE, ONRA...
...IS THE DEMON FROM THAT FAIRY TALE
AS THE LEGEND GOES, LONG, LONG AGO, THE PEOPLE WERE BEING TORMENTED BY A WICKED DEMON
A YOUNG MAN, BORN FROM A PEACH, WENT WITH HIS ANIMAL COMPANIONS TO EXTERMINATE THAT DEMON.

...!
HOWEVER, I CAN USE THIS SHARD OF IBARAGI DOUJI'S BEAD, WHICH HAS THE POWER TO "BRING LEGENDARY YOUKAI BACK TO LIFE"
BUT IF THE STORY'S TRUE, THEN THIS GUY...
YOU BASTARDS...
IS HE NOT A WORTHY OPPONENT FOR ONE SUCH AS YOURSELF?
...
THE MINAMOTO CLAN RECOVERED A FEW FRAGMENTS OF THE BEAD LEFT BEHIND WHEN IBARAGI DOUJI WAS ANNIHILATED
CORRECT.. HE NO LONGER EXISTS IN THIS WORLD, HAVING BEEN EXTERMINATED BY MOMO TARO

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE IT

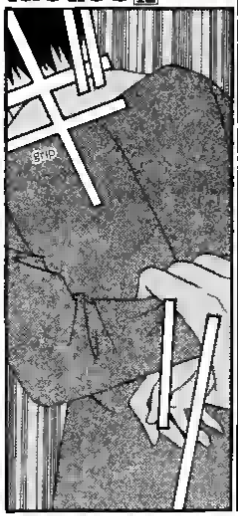
DO YOU KNOW OF THE FAIRY TALE, "MOMOTARO THE DEMON-KILLER"?
WHAT'S THAT?

I'VE NEVER SEEN A YOUKAI LIKE THIS
WHAT COUNTRY IS IT FROM?

!
HOW COULD I HAVE MISSED SUCH A HUGE TARGET ..?
whoosh
HE SLIPPED AWAY..
THAT WAS A SILLY THING TO TRY INDOORS
!
..BUT YOU SEE, WHEN ONRA MOVES, HE CHANGES INTO THE FORM OF A PHEASANT OR A SALMON.
I'M GUESSING YOU THOUGHT THAT SINCE ONRA WAS LARGE, HE WOULD BE EASY TO STRIKE WITH LIGHTNING..
AND THEN...
shwaah

I HOPE THAT THIS ANGER WILL LEAD YOU TO CHANGE TO YOUR "KOUSHIN EYED DEMON-EATING TENGU" FORM.
DOES THAT MAKE YOU ANGRY?
SHUT UP!
Crackle
Crackle
HOW FAR WILL YOU GO DEGRADING US YOUKAI BEFORE YOU'RE SATIS-FIED?!
YOU MINAMOTO BASTARDS ...

COME, LIGHT-NING!!
Crack
THIS FORM IS MORE THAN ENOUGH...
Swish
..TO SILENCE ONE DEMON AND A LITTLE KID!


SLIP

swish
!

BUT HAS THAT REALLY GIVEN YOU THE ADVANTAGE?

SO I SEE.

WHY DO YOU ATTACK ME AND NOT ONRA..?
IT'S EASIER TO FIGHT YOU INSTEAD OF THAT BLOCK-HEAD.

IT IS THE POWER OF HIS YOUKAI BEAD.
THAT IS THE SKILL IMPARTED BY THE MASS OF CRYSTALLIZED YOUKAI POWER UNIQUE TO ONRA.

HE CAN QUICKLY CHANGE BACK TO DEMON FORM TO MAKE HIS ATTACK.

...
WERE YOU NOT AWARE OF YOUR OWN BEAD?
YOU POSSESS SUCH A MASS YOURSELF, DEMON-EATING TENGU.

在 ZAI
前 ZEN
/ 列 RETSU
皆 MAI
陣 JIN
RUMBLE

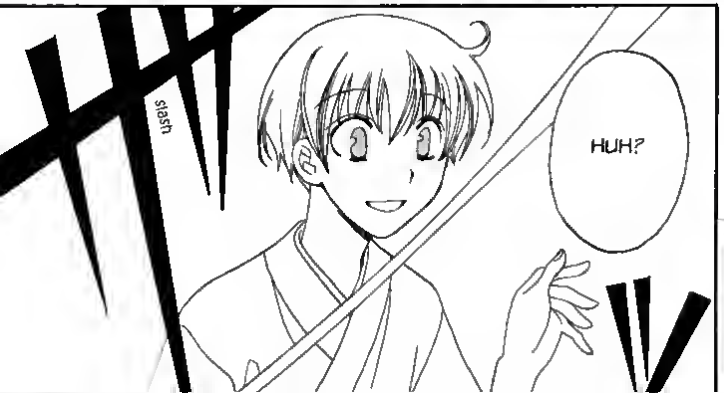
TOU 闘
SHA 者
RIN 臨
HEI 兵

I AM GREATLY INTERESTED IN YOUR YOUKAI BEAD
WOULD YOU LET ME SEE IT?
lunge

snap
Om
hasarado
shinoku

THANK YOU--
HEY.

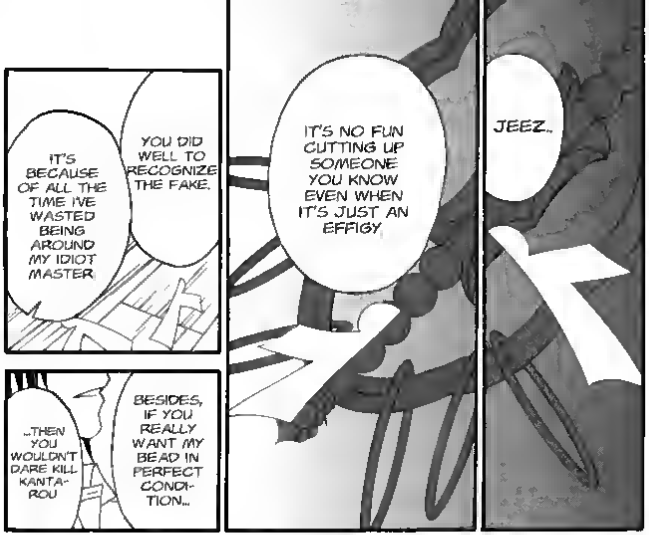
WHERE IS IT?
THE BRACELET YOU WEAR ON THIS WRIST..


slash
HUH?

KAN-TAROU..
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
...
...AH, I SEE.

HELP ME...
HELP ME.
..HARUKA.

THERE IS STILL ONE ISSUE LEFT TO CONSIDER
A DEMON LIKE THIS WON'T BE ANY--


JEEZ..
IT'S NO FUN CUTTING UP SOMEONE YOU KNOW EVEN WHEN IT'S JUST AN EFFIGY
YOU DID WELL TO RECOGNIZE THE FAKE.
IT'S BECAUSE OF ALL THE TIME I'VE WASTED BEING AROUND MY IDIOT MASTER
BESIDES, IF YOU REALLY WANT MY HEAD IN PERFECT CONDITION...
..THEN YOU WOULDN'T DARE KILL KANTAROU

YOUR MISTAKE WAS THAT WHEN THE FAKE CALLED OUT MY NAME, I SENSED NO EMOTION AT ALL
IT IS TRUE THAT WE CANNOT TAKE MISTER KANTAROU'S LIFE.
IF A YOUKAI'S MASTER DIES WITH THE MASTER AND SERVANT CONTRACT STILL INTACT, THEN THE YOUKAI'S POWER WILL REMAIN SEALED
HOWEVER..

IT'S SO LOUD ---
badum
..GCK!
THIS HEART-BEAT ---
badum
badum
WHAT IS THIS?
badum
badum

HUH?
WHY DO I---
whoosh

prick

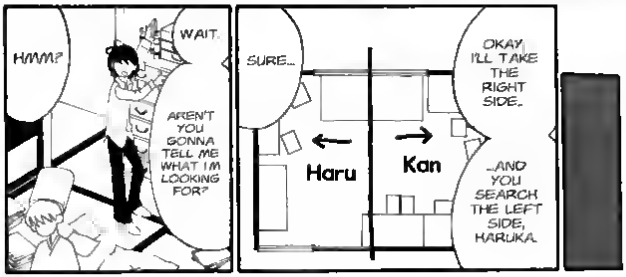
SUDDENLY WANT TO EAT THIS GUY?!

Satire of a Red-Eyed Pomegranate Fiend
Kishimojin Part V

HAAA-RUKAAA...!
I CAN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE!
WHAT'RE YOU YAPPING ABOUT?

...I DON'T WANNA
HELP ME LOOK!

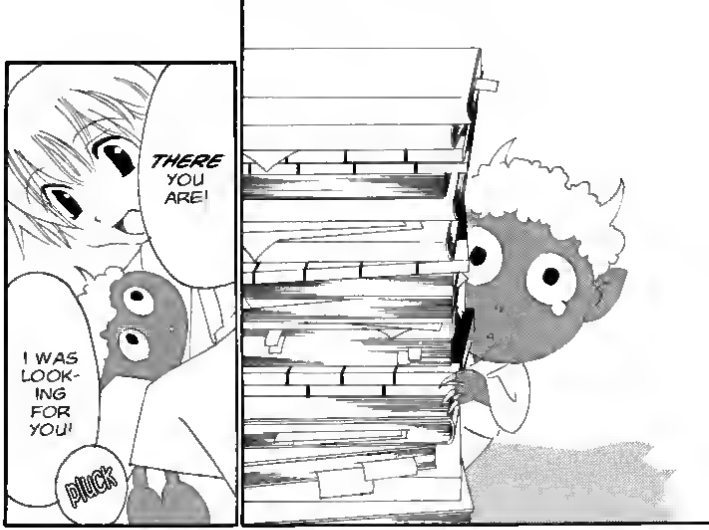
DAMN YOU!!
DON'T INVOKE MY NAME SO WASTE-FULLY!
point
HARUKA !!
I WANT YOU TO HELP WITH MY SEARCH!!


HMM?
WAIT.
AREN'T YOU GONNA TELL ME WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR?
SURE...
Haru
Kan
OKAY, I'LL TAKE THE RIGHT SIDE.
...AND YOU SEARCH THE LEFT SIDE, HARUKA.

OH, IT'S SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT ...
THE HECK?
WHAT'S THIS...?
?
BE MORE SPECIFIC...!
flump
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO GO ON

IS THIS WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?
NAH, BUT IT BOTHERED ME THAT I COULDN'T FIND IT BEFORE.
WOW, THANKS HARUKA!
...
OH!
FAR STRONGER THAN DEMONS, THE "DEMON-EATING TENGU"..

I LIKE THE WAY I'M LIVING NOW
I DON'T WANT A DEMON BADLY ENOUGH TO RUIN THAT
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!!
WHAAAAT? WHY THE OLD PICKUP LINE?
HAVEN'T I MET YOU SOMEWHERE BEFO-
DON'T YOU WANT TO EAT DEMONS NOW?
NO, I DON'T
BUT DIDN'T YOU GET YOUR FULL POWERS BACK AFTER WE WERE ABLE TO CANCEL YOUR CONTRACT WITH LADY FUJI?
REALLY?


THERE YOU ARE!
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU!
PLUCK

NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
DON'T TELL ME YOU WANNA EAT THIS LITTLE GUY?!
YOU'LL HAVE TO ANSWER TO ME IF YOU HARM ANY YOUKAI!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HARUKA?
stare...
OH!
IT'S JUST...

1
OF COURSE YOU ARE.
OF COURSE WE'RE... FRIENDS.
IT'S NOT HOW I DO THINGS. I WAS OSTRACIZED BECAUSE OF MY ABILITIES WHEN I WA YOUNG. YO KNOW
WHEN MY HUMAN FRIENDS LEFT ME, I TURNED TO YOUKAI FOR COMPANY.
THE MEMORIES... THEY KEEP COMING...
WHY IS THIS HAPPEN-ING?
HUNH..
"COULD YOU STILL SAY THAT WITH A DEMON RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU?"

...HRM...
...WHAT? WHY?
I KNOW I'VE SEEN THIS DEMON SOME-WHERE...
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT A TASTE?
WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?
?!
WAIT, IT'S THE LITTLE DEMON FROM THAT SIDE-SHOW!!

?!
AND THAT IS YOUR INSTINCT.
IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER IF YOU SIMPLY GAVE IN TO YOUR INSTINCT
WHAT A STUBBORN YOUKAI YOU ARE
FOR NOW...
THAT WAS AN ILLU-SION!
Huff
Haah

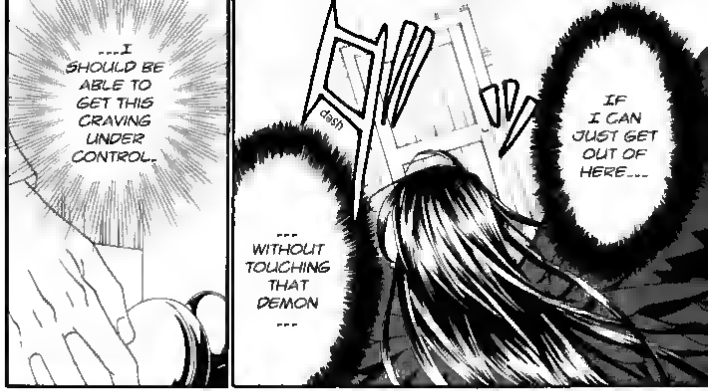
"KANTAROU WOULD STOP ME."

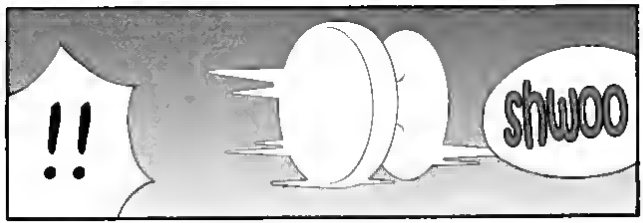
WHY AM I SO...
URGH!

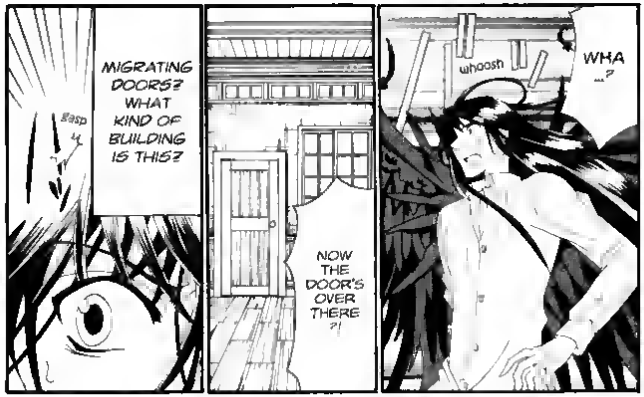
THERE IS ONE MORE THING THAT I DESIRE
shuoo

HARUKA...
OR RATHER, DEMON EATING TENGU...
SCUFF

GRK...
uhnn
I WAS CARE-LESS-
scrape
badum
badum
badum
I THOUGHT THAT FROM NOW ON---
---I COULD MANAGE SOMEHOW, AS LONG AS I HAD KANTAROU-

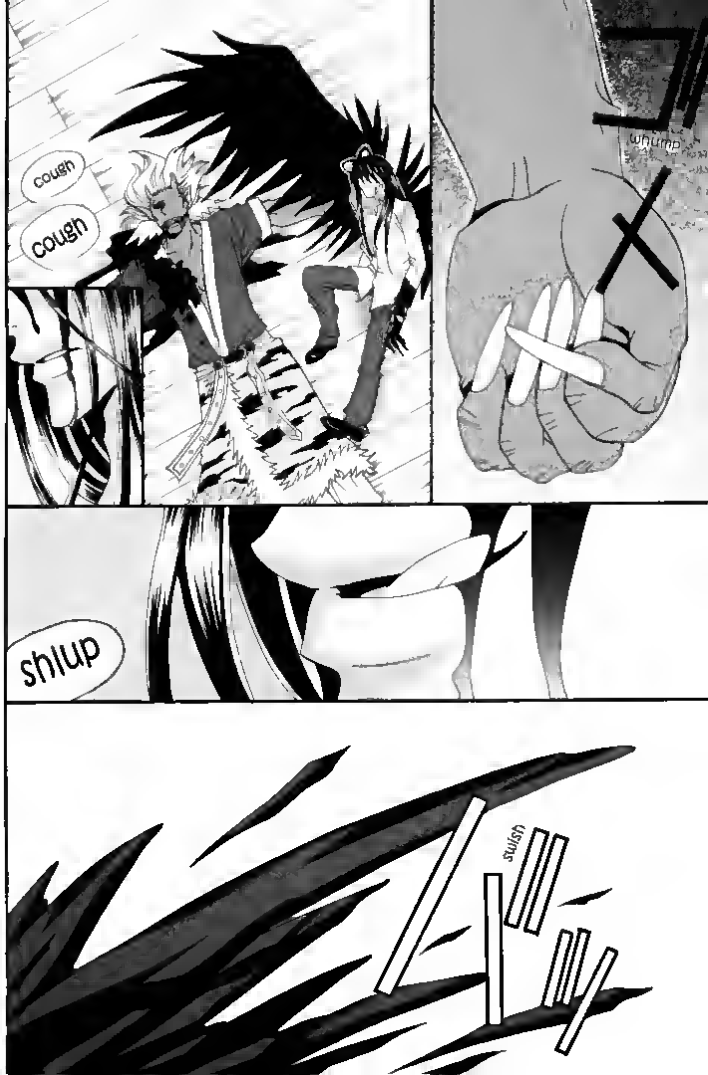

---I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THIS CRAVING UNDER CONTROL-
dash
IF I CAN JUST GET OUT OF HERE---
--- WITHOUT TOUCHING THAT DEMON ---

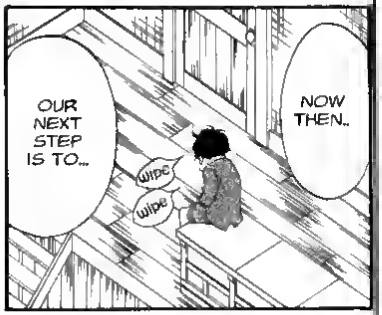

!!
shwoo


gasp
MIGRATING DOORS? WHAT KIND OF BUILDING IS THIS?
NOW THE DOOR'S OVER THERE ?!
whoosh
WHA ...?

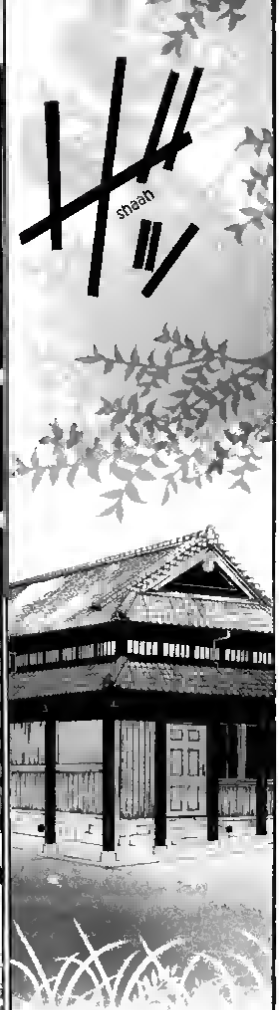
badum
---FOR THE TIMES WHEN HE'S NOT AROUND TO TELL ME.
I WISH I'D ASKED HIM WHAT I SHOULD DO...

squelch
splrch
AND NOW, WITH THIS...


cough
cough
shlup
swish


NOW THEN..
OUR NEXT STEP IS TO...
wipe
wipe

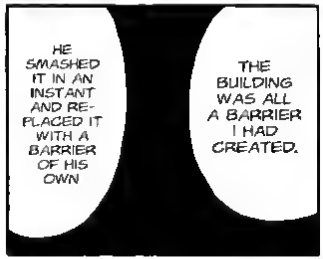
MISTER HARUKA? YOU DONE EATING?


shaah

YOU CAN NEVER GO BACK...
...TO BEING KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA'S FRIEND.

MY SPELLS DON'T WORK EITHER.
RIGHT?
LEFT?
ABOVE?
BELOW?
WHAT DIRECTION WILL HE ATTACK FROM?
JUST WHERE WILL——
loom

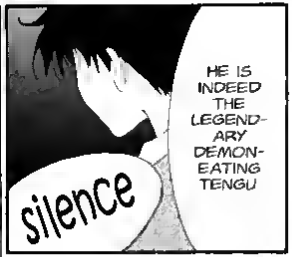
whoom
?!


HE SMASHED IT IN AN INSTANT AND RE-PLACED IT WITH A BARRIER OF HIS OWN
THE BUILDING WAS ALL A BARRIER I HAD CREATED.

...AMAZING...

...on my command.
Alert the hundred demons, present disaster and misfortune...

press


silence
HE IS INDEED THE LEGEND-ARY DEMON-EATING TENGU

ぽか
crack
WHOOPS!

!!
BEHIND YOU.
HUH...?
ぐぽぉ
groooaaa

HOW THE HELL DID YOU CUT THROUGH MY BARRIER...?
I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE A FINE "HOW DO YOU DO"...
OH, BUT...
NO NO, FIRST THINGS FIRST!
I MUST SAY HOW GLAD I AM THAT YOU ARE BACK TO NORMAL!
...KOUSHIN-EYED DEMON-EATING TENGU-SAN.
HERE IS THE ONE WHO MOST WISHED FOR THIS OUT COME.
shff

AREN'T YOU...
Heave ho!
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T GO AROUND TEASING CHILDREN LIKE THAT

SSSSSS
SSSS

WELL WELL WELL!
SSSIUCK

HMM...

THAT'S A NICE MASK YOU HAVE THERE.
SO, GOTTEN A BIT MORE HANDSOME, HAVE YOU?

AT LAST...
HEE HEE... EATING A DEMON HAS GREATLY INCREASED YOUR YOUKAI POWERS.

MAJOR GENERAL RAIKOU MINAMOTO.

AT LAST, I GET TO FULFILL MY DREAMS...
...OF TAKING OUT THE ONLY ONE MY ANCES-TORS COULD NOT
IT'S BEEN MY LIFE-LONG WISH TO KILL YOU...
...DEMON-EATING TENGU...

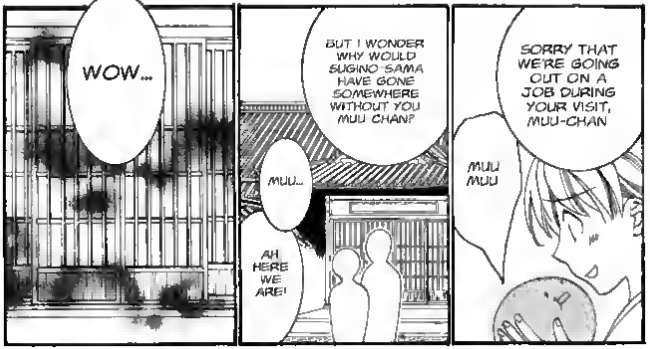
Bonus Manga
The Youkai Big Eater

swisssshh
WHEN DID I LAST TASTE WHITE RICE, ANYWAY..?
I'M STARV-ING..
SORRY ABOUT THIS
WE HAVE NOTHING TO PROVIDE, MUU-CHAN, EVEN AFTER YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY TO VISIT

SO GET SOME WORK ALREADY, MASTER!!
smack
OWW!
Muffud
IT'S AWFUL THAT WE'RE ALMOST WILLING TO TURN TO A LIFE OF CRIME.
YEAH...
WE PROBABLY SHOULDN'T TRY PULLING THE "IT'S ME, GRANDPA" SCAM. THEY'VE REALLY STARTED CRACKING DOWN ON THAT.
HELLO? ANYBODY HOME?
GREAT IDEA!
I KNOW! HOW ABOUT WE SPONGE OFF WEALTHY FRIENDS?
Personnel Selection Meeting
SURE, WHICH ONE?
HEY, WHAT ABOUT, YOU KNOW...
THAT GUY WITH THE DEPARTMENT STORE
Hold
Ehmd
Ish Mon
...MINAMOTO? NO, THAT'S FAR TOO RISKY!!
ONE POSSIBILITY IS.. HASUMI? BUT HE'S A TOUGHIE
He'll probably just yell at us.
For Sweets

SORRY THAT I HAVEN'T CALLED ON YOU IN SOME TIME, MISTER KANTA-ROU
MISTER ITOU!!
THAT'S FINE, WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU!
Eh, why?

Muuu.
SER-VICES?! YOU HAVE A JOB FOR ME?!
I HAVE COME TO REQUEST THE SERVICES OF YOUR SECONDARY BUSINESS,
A living god.
...cri... HAS THAT HINT OF ...ER RITY!
OOOH!
HEY ISN'T HE THE RENOWNED PAINTER WHO'S ALSO THE SON OF THE DEPARTMENT STORE OWNER...?!
HMMM, AND STEALING FOOD... HOW NI--
UH, I MEAN, HOW NAUGHTY!
IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A RODENT PROBLEM A SERVANT TOLD ME THAT THEY SAW A "SUSPICIOUS LOOKING SHADOW."
THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT I HAVE A SERIOUS PROBLEM ALL OF OUR FOOD HAS BEEN DISAP-PEARING
THAT DOES SOUND LIKE A YOUKAI
Ichinomiya Vision.


WOW...
BUT I WONDER WHY WOULD SUGINO SAMA HAVE GONE SOMEWHERE WITHOUT YOU MUU CHAN?
MUU...
AH HERE WE ARE!
SORRY THAT WE'RE GOING OUT ON A JOB DURING YOUR VISIT, MUU-CHAN
MUU MUU

Hmm
SO IT'S A YOUKAI THAT HIDES ITSELF, HUH? NOW WHERE COULD IT BE...?

GUESS WE'LL START BY LURING IT OUT
FIRST ATTEMPT HARUKA!
Me?

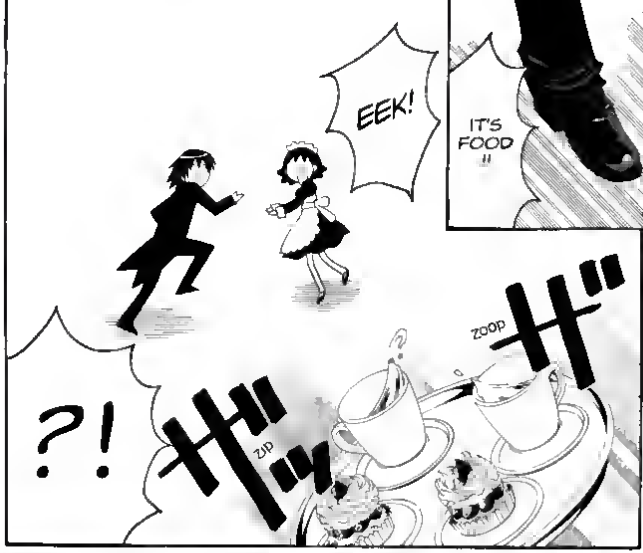
IT'S MUCH WORSE THAN I EXPECTED
I CLEAN AND CLEAN, AND NOW IT'S MESSY AGAIN!

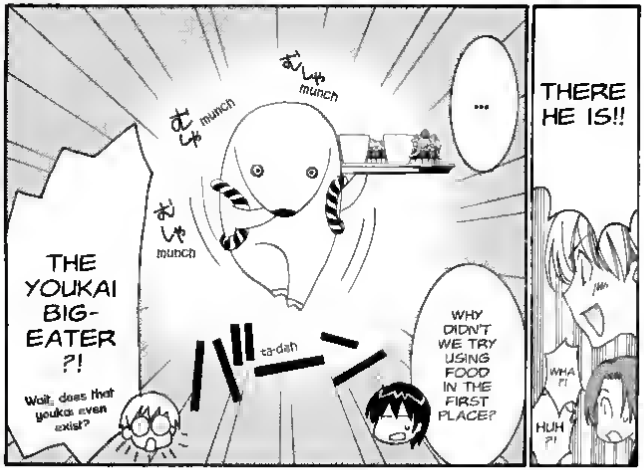
Second Wave: Youko-chan
MASTER? WHERE ARE YOU? PLEASE DON'T TEASE YOUKO, COME ON OUT!
OH, HELLO MASTER!
WELCOME HOME!
dead silence
YOUKO WILL BE SAD WITHOUT MASTER'S...
I ADMIT, I NEVER COULD SEE MYSELF BEHAVING IN THIS FASHION, BUT... BUT !...
ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I CAN'T PLAY THIS TYPE OF CHARACTER?
Death to "moé" I say!!
Woooh!!
YOUKO-CHAN, CALM DOWN!!
GET A GRIP, YOUKO!!

Gigolo Mode Achvated
OHH! MY LONELY HEART...!
SHOW ME YOUR PRECIOUS EYES, THOSE HIDDEN LIGHTS LIKE TWINKLING STARS.
IT SHATTERS LIKE GLASS.
DRINK TO ME WITH THINE EYES, AND I WILL DINE. OH BELOVED-- FOOOOOD!
WHY MUST I BE BOUND TO A MAN WHO EARNS NOTHING? JUST GIVE ME A BREAK!
WHY MUST WE BE REDUCED TO SIPPING WATER AS THE DRY LEAVES SCATTER ON THE WIND?!
WHY, WHY, WHY?!!
A POOR MAN COULD AT LEAST WORK HARD LIKE THE POOR.
HARUKA, CALM DOWN!!
GET A GRIP, HARUKA-CHAN!!
Auuuugh! Seriously, why!! Why must I?! Let's see how you like it for a change!

Pleeeease come out, come out, come on out and play!
Come out, come out, Mister Youkai!
Glare
TO LURE A YOUKAI OUT, YOU GOTTA TURN ON THE CHARM!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO ME NOW!
Why didn't you do that from the start?!
bwoosh

Come on out!
Come on out!
Come on out!
WHAT ARE YOU ALL STANDING THERE FOR?! DANCE WITH ME!!
Mythology Reference
...FOR LURING OUT SOMEBODY WHO'S HIDING!
IN JAPAN, DANCE IS THE NUMBER-ONE TIME-HONORED TRADITION...
GET THAT FOOD!
Hi ho!
GRAB YOUR ACCOUNT BOOK, HOLD IT TIGHT! GET THAT FOOD!
Hey ho!
VERY HIGH!
OUR ENGEL'S COEFFICIENT IS VERY HIGH!
shock
They're dancing
ER..
EXCUSE ME SIR, BUT... IT'S TIME FOR TEA...


EEK!
IT'S FOOD!!
dash
zoop
zip
?!


munch
munch
munch
munch
...
THERE HE IS!!
THE YOUKAI BIG-EATER ?!
Wait, does that youkai even exist?
ta-dah
WHY DIDN'T WE TRY USING FOOD IN THE FIRST PLACE?
WHA?!
HUH?!

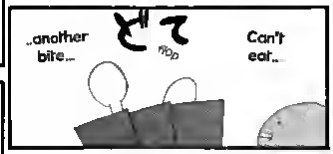
munch
munch
munch
'CAUSE HE'S WEALTHY AND HAS TONS OF FOOD! DUH!
I WISH I COULD BE CAREFREE LIKE YOU!
WHY ARE YOU MAKING MISCHIEF IN ITOU'S HOUSE?
WOW! WHICH WAY IS THE YOUKAI?!
Ooh! Ooh!
AH RIGHT, ITOU. YOU USED TO BE ABLE TO SEE THEM

Ichinomiya Gang MAXIMUM Spirit
AREN'T YOU AGREEING KINDA FAST?
OH!
AN EATING CONTEST ?!
BUT YOU'RE MAKING TROUBLE, SO COULD YOU PLEASE LEAVE?
KAY, HOW 'BOUT THIS? YOU BEAT ME AT AN EATING CONTEST, AND I'M OUTTA HERE!

Eating Contest: Start!!
ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO!!
UH, SURE. IF THAT WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEM...
CAN WE, ITOU? OL' BUDDY AND PAL?!

chomp
chomp
chomp
chomp

scarf
scarf


..another bite...
drop
Can't eat..

chomp
chomp
chomp
chomp

chew
chew

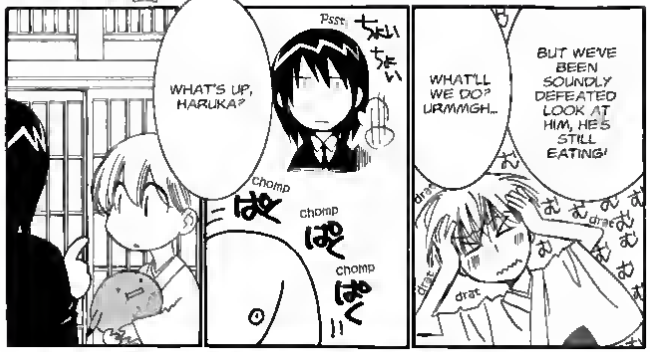
gobble
gobble

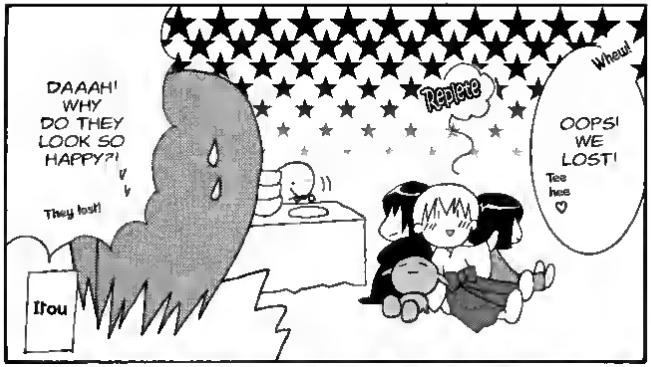
chomp
chomp
chomp
chomp

gob
gobble...

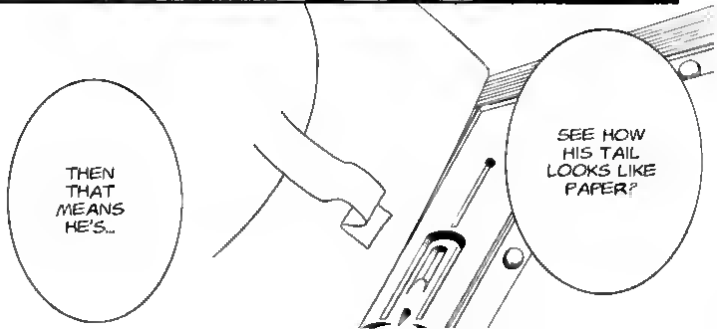
MISTER KANTA-ROU'S TEAM VERSUS MISTER BIG-EATER!
I MOBI-LIZED ALL OF MY FAMILY'S CHEFS, PATISSIERS AND COOKS FOR THIS MAJOR EVENT!!

'COURSE! AFTER ALL, I'M "BIG-EATER"!
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH DOING THIS THREE AGAINST ONE?


Psst
WHAT'S UP, HARUKA?
chomp
chomp
chomp
WHAT'LL WE DO? URMMGH..
BUT WE'VE BEEN SOUNDLY DEFEATED LOOK AT HIM, HE'S STILL EATING!
drat
drat
drat


DAAAH! WHY DO THEY LOOK SO HAPPY?!
They lost!
Replete
Whew!
OOPS! WE LOST!
Tee hee

..BUT THAT THING THERE..
I DIDN'T NOTICE THIS BEFORE, ON AN EMPTY STOMACH..


THEN THAT MEANS HE'S...
SEE HOW HIS TAIL LOOKS LIKE PAPER?

That was careless
OH RIGHT, WE DO STILL NEED TO GET PAID.
WHAA—?
BUT I'M TIRED!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR BASKING IN THE AFTERGLOW OF A FULL BELLY!
WE STILL HAVE A TOMORROW, A FUTURE, AHEAD OF US!!
HANG ON A MINUTE!
I CAN'T PAY YOU UNLESS YOU EXORCISE IT AS REQUESTED!

SO THE REAL CULPRIT ..
...IS SOMEONE ELSE ENTIRELY!

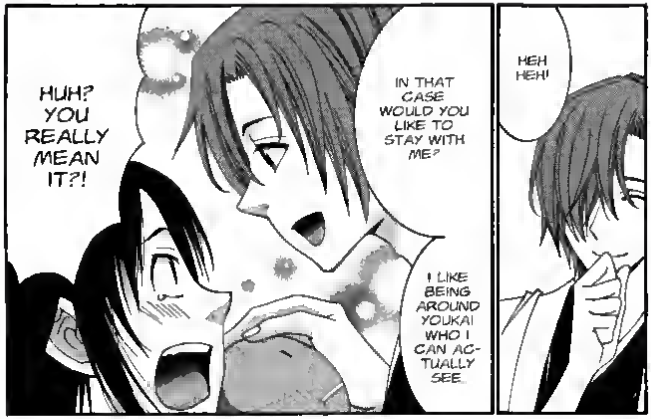
crinkle

IF EVEN MISTER KANTA ROU CAN'T STOP IT..
..MAYBE I SHOULD VACATE THIS MANSION..
WE HAVE TO START OVER FROM SQUARE ONE?! THERE AREN'T ANY CLUES!!
GAAAH WHAT'LL WE DO NOOOOW ?!

A SHIKIGAMI ?!
slash

squeeze
MUU-CHAN'S SMILE!!
I'M IN LOVE ALL OVER AGAIN!
turn
HA HA, HEY GUYS! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
OH, CRAP! MY UNBEARABLE INFATUATION'S LURED ME OUT OF HIDING

HM?
pac pac
PIUF PIUF PIUF
beam
OW!!
NGA AAA HH!!
THANKS, I FEEL MUCH BETTER ♡
AWW, MUU-CHAN'S SMILING AT ME!!
nuzzle nuzzle
HUH?!

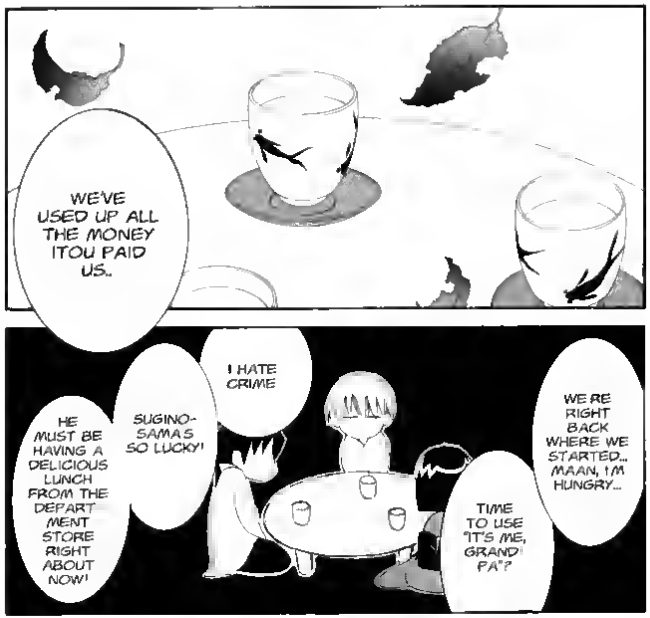

HUH? YOU REALLY MEAN IT?!
IN THAT CASE WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY WITH ME?
I LIKE BEING AROUND YOUKAI WHO I CAN ACTUALLY SEE.
HEH HEH!

NO FAIR, SUGINO-SAMA!
IT'S NO TROUBLE, I'M SIMPLY THRILLED TO BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH A YOUKAI ♡
TH-THANK YOU!
HEEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING, ITOU?

YOU EVEN MADE A SHIKIGAMI WHY DID YOU DO ALL THIS, SUGINO-SAMA?

IT'S ONE THING FOR A YOUKAI TO PRANK HUMANS, BUT YOU'RE A GOD!
whap
ボカ
bam
スカ
wham
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW, DUMB-ASS!
EEEYA!

BUT THEN I GOT ALL SMOTHERED IN THE LOVE COMING FROM MUU-CHAN'S SMILE AND JUST COULDN'T RESIST IT.
I WANTED TO SCARE AWAY THE PEOPLE LIVING HERE AND MAKE THIS HOUSE OUR VACATION HOME IN THE CITY.
スパーン
whap
Bwuh?
hic
WAAH!
hic
SORRY... I'M SO SORRY! I JUST WANTED FOR ME AND MUU-CHAN TO
AND I WOULD'VE SUCCEEDED TOO, IF NOT FOR YOU MEDDLERS!


WE'VE USED UP ALL THE MONEY ITOU PAID US..
I HATE CRIME
SUGINO-SAMA'S SO LUCKY!
HE MUST BE HAVING A DELICIOUS LUNCH FROM THE DEPART MENT STORE RIGHT ABOUT NOW!
WE'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED... MAAN, I'M HUNGRY...
TIME TO USE "IT'S ME, GRAND' PA"?

SMILING WHILE WORKING SOMEONE TO THE BONE...
SMILE SMILE
NO LUNCH UNTIL YOU'VE FINISHED MOPPING THE FLOOR, ALRIGHT?
RICH PEOPLE SUCK!!

はばたけ！タカティクス学園

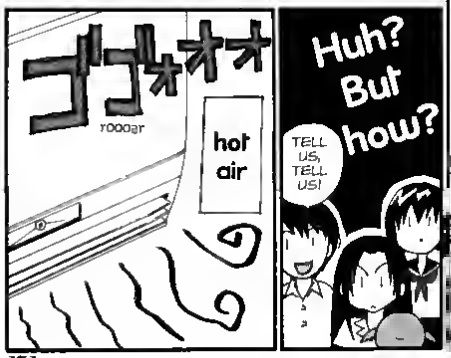
Fly Away! Tactics Academy

A Special Someone In Midsummer!

Gakuran Jacket in Midsummer
What? Me? I'm not taking this off.
YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

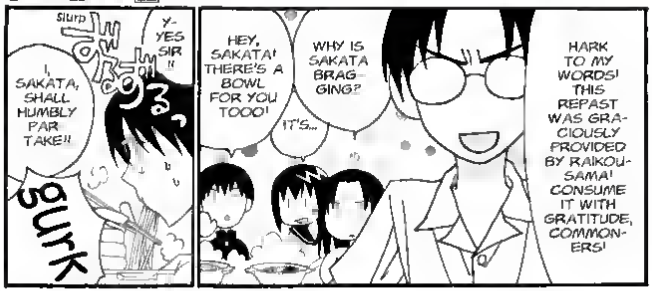
Hrrm.
I NEED TO GET THAT JACKET OFF OF HIM SOMEHOW.
HRM, THAT'S VIOLATING PUBLIC HEALTH CODES, SO I CAN'T IGNORE IT.

HE'S WEARING A JACKET?!
I'M GETTING HOTTER JUST LOOKING AT HIM!
PLUS HE REEKS OF SWEAT!!
HE DOES HAVE... A CERTAIN... PUNK...
Phew!
What died in here?!


ゴゴォオオ
roooar
hot air
Huh? But how?
TELL US, TELL US!

I'M MELTING...
IZZ HOOOT...
I CAN'T DO THIS!

うだぁ
Melting...
SHUT UP! DON'T YOU PEOPLE CARE ABOUT YOUR GRADES?
ECOOOO!
HEY, SENSEI, WHY DOESN'T THIS SCHOOL HAVE AC??
PLEASE, SENSEI!
IT'S HARD TO FIND THE WILL TO DO ANYTHING IN THIS HEAT...
EH...
生活


slurp
Y-YES SIR!!
I, SAKATA, SHALL HUMBLY PARTAKE!!
gurk
HEY, SAKATA! THERE'S A BOWL FOR YOU TOOO!
WHY IS SAKATA BRAGGING?
IT'S...
HARK TO MY WORDS! THIS REPAST WAS GRACIOUSLY PROVIDED BY RAIKOU-SAMA! CONSUME IT WITH GRATITUDE, COMMONERS!

aghast
ガーン
おかわりま
おかわりな
dumnnnnnnnn
DELICIOUS!! I HAVEN'T HAD THIS STUFF IN AGES! AHA HA!
THANKS FOR THE MEAL, MINAMOTO-KUN! ♡
IS THIS STUFF MEANT TO BE EDIBLE?!
ガラヤーン
crash
Ahh
FORGIVE ME, RAIKOU SAMA, I BEG YOU!
SAKATA, YOU SUCK..

HELL'S COFFEE
bubble
bubble
steam
しゅん
しゅん
toast
しゅん
toast
It's on, Ichinomiya!
UH... OKAY, HERE'S OUR LAST TRY!

ACK, IT'S TOO MUCH!
AUGH, NOW IT'S ABOVE SKIN TEMPERATURE!
わたく
PANIC
WHY DOES THIS SCHOOL HAVE HEATERS BUT NO AC?!!

smile
にこっ
Ahhh
IT FEELS LIKE A GENTLE, WARM EMBRACE!
toast
K-KAN-CHAN... AREN'T YOU BROILING?!

ENDURANCE CONTEST STANDBY: RED-HOT NABEYAKI UDON
OKAY, HOW ABOUT THIS?

FROM Kazuko Higashiyama

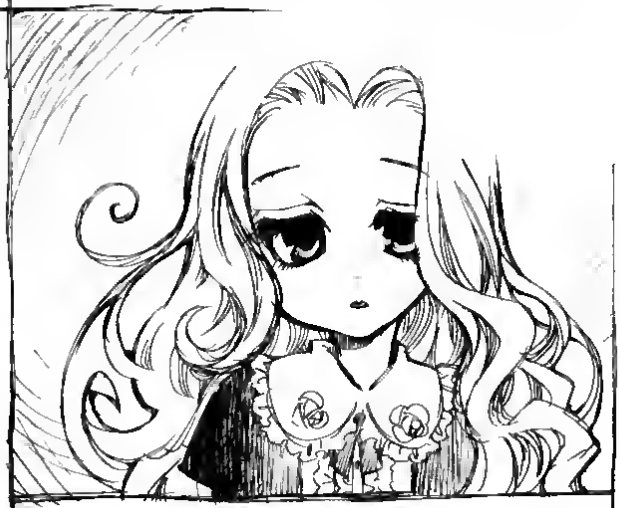
Thank you very much for buying volume 12!
I'm doing my best, so I hope you'll continue to support us.

I wonder to myself, "Could I do another short with these three?" But that just makes me want to strangle myself.

東山和子

CON-GRATULA-TIONS! YOU WON!
WHA? HUH?
ALL RIGHT, FINE! WE LOST, KANTA-ROU!!
rush
ぐりぐりぐり

FROM Sakura Kinoshita



I sincerely thank you for purchasing Tactics volume 12. I'm happy we could all meet again. Even though I'm essentially dropping each character in Tactics into their own mudslinging contest, I still can't help thinking, "I hope everyone will be happy soon!"

木下さくら。